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L.A. LEGAL EXPERTS BEGIN MEETING IN BARBADOS

FL131727 Bridgetown CANA in English 1700 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Dec 13 (CANA) -- Legal experts from member countries of the Organisation of American States (OAS) today began a five-day comparative study of various laws in Latin America and the Commonwealth Caribbean.

The meeting, attended by chief justices from Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago, was opened by Barbados acting Attorney General Dr Johnny Cheltenham, who said it was aimed at fostering closer coordination between the countries of the hemisphere in legal affairs. "Comparative study in this area is an indispensable part of the effort aimed at increasing functional cooperation within the hemisphere," Cheltenham said.

The legal experts will look specifically at common civil service and private international laws, and a presentation will also be entitled "Constitutional Systems of the Commonwealth Caribbean."

"...It is hoped," Dr Cheltenham said, "that a closer convergence may be achieved between the different legal systems through the study of certain fundamental institutions aimed at identifying the legal problems of greatest importance to the Caribbean countries."

The seminar is sponsored jointly by the Barbados Government, the OAS, and the University of the West Indies (UWI), with funding provided by Venezuela.

Cheltenham said it might be worthwhile for the participants to explore avenues for disseminating information on the different legal systems within the hemisphere when looking at the possibilities for legal cooperation among the Latin American and Caribbean states.

"I have no doubt that participants will, at the end of this seminar, be better equipped to make positive contributions to efforts at arresting the problems, legal and otherwise, that now confront us as we strive to strengthen the links within the Americas," the acting Attorney General said.

ALFONSIN NATIONAL ADDRESS ON STATE OF LAW

PY140221 Buenos Aires Argentina Televisora Color Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 14 Dec 83

[Argentine President Raul Alfonsin address to the nation after first Cabinet meeting, from Government House in Buenos Aires on 13 December -- recorded -- in network with Buenos Aires Domestic Service]

[Text] The democratic government has announced its firmest determination to restore a state of law in Argentina. This requires that a series of measures necessary to safeguard the broadest respect for basic individual rights as well to safeguard the decision-making power of the constitutional branches be implemented. The measures are aimed at solving past situations and preventing future similar events.

The past lingers like gloom on our future. The extreme violations of rights, which are the essence of human dignity, violations which terrorism and the repression of that terrorism incurred, cannot go unpunished, as it would mean giving up basic ethical principles and jeopardizing the prevention of future violations.

The conviction that justice must be served with those who, from one or the other side, have regarded men as mere puppets in order to attain certain objectives implies that the de facto so-called pacification or amnesty law must be revoked and declared forever void. This law, in addition to being unacceptable from the moral point of view, is irresponsible from the political point of view, since it places the blame on the entire military institution when it should only be placed on some of its members.

The pacification law is also vicious from the juridical point of view, since it implies a confirmation of the lack of equality and simultaneously improves the means of access to absolute power.

Lastly, since the de facto norms do not enjoy the presumed legitimacy that norms of a democratic origin enjoy, their precarious validity is canceled when, such as in this case, its content is cleary vicious.

In view of this situation, the national executive branch is submitting a draft bill to Congress which revokes this amnesty law, which will be declared unconstitutional and forever void of all juridical effect. This law will not be applied retroactively, not even if it is more beneficial to the defendant, or if it is to prevent a defendant from being subjected to double jeopardy. Special measures regarding the release from prison and the freedom under surveillance of those who might have benefited from the implementation of the amnesty law, which we propose be revoked, will be taken.

The passage of this draft law by Congress will imply that the channels of justice are open to the investigation and eventually to the punishment of actions committed by terrorists and members of the Armed Forces and police under the allegation of repressing terrorism.

As for the latter actions, respect for Article 18 of the Constitution forbidding the removal of an accused from the jurisdiction of a legally appointed judge before he is prosecuted demands that the necessary invalidation of the norms of the military justice code establishing military court jurisdiction over these crimes be applicable to future acts but not to past acts.

At the same time, however, it is unacceptable that crimes which have seriously affected the rights and interests of persons not in the military ranks be judged as a single jurisdiction by administrative courts composed of peers of the accused who are not constitutional judges. This is an arbitrary privilege and disregards the guarantee of due penal process.

In view of what has been said, the military jurisdiction, imposed in the past under the natural judge principle, is only acceptable if provision is simultaneously made for recourse to broad appeal that can be utilized both by the accused and the accuser. Civilian courts common for all Argentines will hear these appeals.

In this appelate jurisdiction, the affected person will participate, without precluding his unrestricted right to denounce and to produce evidence in the lower trial court. We have repeatedly stated that it is necessary to distinguish three situations which appeared in the context of the inhuman methodology employed to repress terrorism: 1) the situation of those who planned and supervised that methodology, issuing the orders necessary to implement it without preventing its consequences; 2) the situation of those who committed abuses in carrying out those orders for reasons such as cruelty, perversity, or greed; and 3) the situation of those who limited themselves to complying with orders which were imparted in a context that was not free from pressure on the effects of intense and permanent propaganda inspired by the totalitarian doctrine of national security: This propaganda led those who received orders to believe that they were legitimate orders.

The exemplary weight of the law must be brought to bear on those who are included in the first two situations, that is, those who set the machinery of death in motion, and those who used it to inflict torture or to secure personal gain. On the other hand, it is necessary to adopt a different criterion to judge those who followed orders in a climate of error and coercion, and they should be offered the opportunity to serve constitutional democracy in the future.

The existing juridical norms on due obedience are generally sufficient to bring out such necessary distinctions, requiring only minor modifications regarding the producing of evidence, considering the extremely anomalous situation in which such orders were issued and received.

This requires modifications to be made in the Military Justice Code through a proposal which is being submitted to Congress, a proposal vacating the jurisdiction of military courts over common crimes committed in the future by members of the Armed Forces and police, establishing recourse to all types of appeals before civilian courts on sentences rendered in military trials, and setting new norms to interpret and prove due obedience.

This appeal recourse will also permit revisions, within adequate periods of time, of sentences imposed on civilians by military courts. However, in addition to this recourse, through a separate proposal, the recourse of habeas corpus will be extended to such cases. This will make it possible to substantiate the Supreme Court ruling that, once the situation of exception is past, such sentences are no longer valid.

The abuses against human dignity that were committed to combat terrorism and to answer similar terrorist abuses were carried out beyond the de facto laws issued by the military regime to prevent these events. Nevertheless, these de facto laws were in themselves repressive instruments which did not have limits imposed by essential principles of the liberal penal law. The sentences, especially death sentences, were draconian. The penal systems were vague and broad; the procedures violated essential guarantees.

Consequently, the executive branch submits to the honorable Congress a bill by which such de facto laws are abolished, including a recent law which seeks to regulate the procedure to judge terrorist crimes involving serious violations of constitutional rights. The bill proposing the abolishment of these de facto laws also provides for the recovery of the constitutional laws annuled by these de facto laws, thus preventing legal loopholes that this abolishment could generate.

The same penal code bill is combined with another bill amending the code of penal procedures in effect throughout the nation in order to immediately overcome one of the worst obstacles thwarting the state of law in Argentine: the situation in the prisons. This situation, whose explosive symptoms were recently demonstrated with regrettable consequences, has been aggravated by the shameful misuse of preventive custody, which has been turned into a true sentence without a plea of guilty. Most of our prisoners are serving terms with no sentences.

The above-mentioned bills propose to amend the laws regarding the conditional sentencing for a second offense and release from jail. They will also try to put into effect the established period for trials and cancel a law issued by the military regime by which a repugnant delay in the fulfillment of legal decisions is created, thus giving room for habeas corpus.

All these amendments are extremely urgent, and do not exclude -- but on the contrary presuppose -- a more thorough revision of our unsatisfactory penal laws, especially those related to penal procedures.

However, the national executive branch intends to propose, in the first days of its administration, its idea of a democratic legal order. This idea makes full respect for the essential rights and guarantees of man compatible with its firmness, zealousness, and effectiveness in preventing acts which violate these rights and go against the constitutional order that protects them. This idea is included in a bill which will also be immediately submitted to the honorable Congress. It will protect constitutional order and democratic coexistence. This bill is an echo of our historical experience in the sense that very few crimes result in consequences that are so unfortunate for social life, such as the attempt to disregard constitutional procedures in electing authorities and to disregard their decisions.

The bill foresees that crimes classified as rebellion will not be considered to be attacks against constitutional order; the corresponding penalties will be considerably expanded. Even more, these crimes will be considered aggravated crimes if they are aimed at incorporating permanent changes into the system of constitutional rights and guarantees, into the system of three branches of government, and into the federal system. Public threats to take such actions will also be punished.

The bill also foresees that if the constitutional order is disrupted, the effects of penal action will be suspended until the disruption ends. It also foresees that misdeeds committed as reasonable, necessary and suitable means to resist both the installation of a de facto government and some of its measures will be considered grounds for immunity [causal de impunidad].

The bill also foresees that society cannot be left defenseless against the scourge of terrorism, which has the same consequences as coup attempts and which many times cause and provide a pretext for such coups.

Considering that the government will submit a bill to Congress requesting the abolishment of the unacceptable de facto antiterrorism laws that have been in force, such laws will be replaced by a new set of laws. This set of laws will seek to play a suitable preventive role and to insure that the basic rights and guarantees of each trial will be respected.

Any crime that contributes to jeopardizing constitutional order will be considered an aggravated action. In addition, association will be regarded as an aggravated crime if its effects jeopardize the constitutional order.

An oral procedure to be followed by the Federal Chamber will be enacted to judge the crimes punishable by these laws, making sure that trials are held in public, rapidly, efficiently, and with due respect for the guarantees foreseen by the law.

Also, with an eye to the future, an additional bill will be submitted to fight one of the crimes most harmful to human dignity -- torture. This crime will be punished with the same penalty as that of murder. It will be punished with life imprisonment whenever the victim of torture dies or suffers very serious wounds.

Failure by government officials to prevent the reporting of, or to adopt the necessary measures to prevent torture in the departments under their direction, will also be punishable.

In order to guarantee the full protection of human rights, the executive branch will submit bills approving the UN Civil and Political Rights Pact [Pacto de Derechos Civiles y Politicos], the UN Social and Economic Rights Pact of the Optional Protocol [Pacto de Derechos Economicos y Sociales del Protocolo Facultativo], and the San Jose de Costa Rica Pact, which establishes the compulsory jurisdiction of the Inter-American Human Rights Court.

Thus, through a joint action in which democratic Argentina must participate, the international community will also be the guarantor of the preservation of human rights in our fatherland.

Finally, the democratic government's unyielding will to restore the state of law in Argentina must be reflected not only by the enactment of general rules that are essential for the respect of law, but also by specific actions through which that state of law can actually come into force.

Therefore, taking into account that the restoration of the state of law demands the prosecution of those who in our recent past spread terror, pain, and death throughout the Argentine society, the government has decided to take legal action to prosecute those who prima facie bore most of the responsibility both for terrorist actions and for the illegal and cruel methods used to combat it.

Therefore, the executive branch will immediately begin legal action against those who, either because of the political power that they illegitimately seized or because they were totally unaware of what the Constitution set forth, provoked a situation that distressed both the national and international public. Official agencies and provincial governors will be asked to submit testimony against those people who are indicted in the above legal action. In addition, the people in general, particularly those who have been affected by the above situation, will be allowed to submit testimony indicting the persons responsible for those actions.

It is our deepest conviction that democracy must be defended. Our government, will not remain neutral toward the enemies of this democracy, nor will it be passive or powerless to fight them.

We are equally convinced that the appropriate judges will be the ones to pass judgment on the various responsibilities, which will demonstrate that we are motivated by no other desire that to see justice prevail once and for all in the nation.

Inquest of Junta Members

PY140113 Paris AFP in Spanish 0030 GMT 14 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 14 Dec (AFP) -- Tonight reliable sources revealed that during the next few hours the government will announce that a pretrial inquest will be ordered to determine responsibilities of the first government junta that ended on Saturday, 10 December, during the struggle against subversion.

The sources stated that the decision will be officially made by President Raul Alfonsin in his capacity as commander in chief of the Armed Forces, applying the Military Justice Code.

This information was learned a few hours after an attorney had charged before the court that members of the two first government juntas were guilty of betraying the fatherland and of genocide. He made the charges against the entire personnel of the armed, security, and police forces.

Reliable sources stated that the president had allegedly decided that the eventual charges against the military chiefs would be judged according to the Military Justice Code. The sources added that Alfonsin, in his capacity as commander of the Armed Forces, will appoint the trial judge, who could be a general, admiral, or brigadier, so that he may begin the inquest.

CASTRO GREETS ALFONSIN, RODRIGUEZ MEETS PRESS

FL132003 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Cuban Councils of State and Ministers, met in Buenos Aires with Raul Alfonsin, Argentina's recently elected president.

The Cuban leader met with the press after visiting the Argentine president. During his press conference, Rodriguez stated that he had given Raul Alfonsin a message from President Fidel Castro in which he announced his pleasure over democracy's victory in Argentina. Rodriguez also stated that during his meeting with the president, the subject of our political relations, which will be naturally strengthened during this new stage of Argentina's political life, and the problems of continental Latin America were also discussed.

The Cuban vice president then said: We consider Argentina -- despite the critical situation that is currently being experienced by developing nations -- with its potential and history, has an important role in Latin America.

Further on Rodriguez' Meeting

PY130214 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0128 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 12 Dec (EFE) -- During a press conference today, Cuban Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez stated that the situation in Central America is causing anguish in the Latin American countries, and intervention similar to that recently registered in Grenada should be avoided in that region.

This afternoon Rodriguez met with Argentine President Raul Alfonsin. According to what he said, they agreed on the need for negotiated solutions for the Central American crisis in line with the Contadora Group actions. He added that during these past few days he met with many Latin American presidents, and "we are pleased to see that, just as they do, President Alfonsin also supports the Contadora Group's actions."

Rodriguez stated that in his talk with Alfonsin they not only discussed bilateral but also international relations. Regarding the Argentine-Cuban commercial exchange, he pointed out that it will increase in the coming months since the Argentine sale of foodstuffs and industrial products to Cuba will possibly amount to $200 million.

Rodriguez referred to the presence of Cuban military troops in other nations, asserting that there are Cuban soldiers in Africa in compliance with Article 51 of the UN Charter, which provides for the possibility of a government requesting foreign support, such as in the Angolan case. He pointed out that there are South African troops in Angola and Namibia, and that their withdrawal would prompt the immediate withdrawal of the Cuban troops.

Rodriguez Statements to Press

FL140216 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 Dec 83

[Text] Cuban Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez has met in Buenos Aires with new Argentine President Raul Alfonsin, to whom he conveyed Cuban President Fidel Castro's pleasure over the triumph of democracy in Argentina.

Later, Dr Carlos Rafael Rodriguez told journalists that the conversation with Alfonsin dealt with the subject of bilateral relations, which both parties will try to improve. The vice president of Cuba's Councils of State and Ministers stated that specific negotiations had already begun dealing with trade for 1984, and everything indicates that the volume of trade with the South American country will increase, although not significantly. Dr Carlos Rafael Rodriguez added that nevertheless, next year, Argentine exports to Cuba will reach about $200 million, including agricultural food products and industrial goods in particular.

The Cuban commented that in his conversation with Argentine President Raul Alfonsin, Central American affairs were also discussed because that region causes anguish and concern for those who live in the Caribbean region and the southern cone.

Carlos Rafael Rodriguez emphasized that it is necessary to prevent the repetition of interventionism in Central America at all costs, which appeared to have disappeared from Latin American relations but which returned in a naked and cruel manner in Grenada. The Cuban vice president told the Buenos Aires journalists that there is agreement with Argentina and other Latin American governments on the need, through international pressure, for a negotiated political settlement based on the Contadora Group measures to be presented to the United States.

Carlos Rafael Rodriguez explained that those pressures could also be applied by European, Asian, and other countries, some of which might be allies of Washington. He said: It pleases us that President Alfonsin also supports the ideas of the Contadora Group and that he is willing to join in this Latin American sentiment, although perhaps we do not interpret some of Contadora's problems in the same way.

Responding to the journalists' questions concerning an eventual meeting between President Fidel Castro and Raul Alfonsin, Dr Carlos Rafael Rodriguez said that the possibility exists because it concerns two countries that have relations, are friends, members of the Nonaligned Movement, and are Latin Americans. Nevertheless, there is nothing that permits assurances that this meeting will occur in the near future. Both presidents have made their plans for months in advance, and Alfonsin is now beginning the difficult task of Argentina's reconstruction, added Rodriguez.

ORTEGA'S ACTIVITIES AFTER INAUGURATION

PA131431 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 Dec 83

["Exclusive" telephone interview granted to Radio Sandino by Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Nicaraguan Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, from Buenos Aires on 12 December -- recorded]

[Text] [Ortega] We have met with Argentine President Raul Alfonsin, with whom we had an extensive talk. Of course we discussed Nicaraguan-Argentine relations and the Central American problems. We discussed this in depth, as well as the efforts being undertaken through the Contadora Group, the initiatives that Nicaragua has presented, and the U.S. threats against Nicaragua. We can state that we found Argentine President Alfonsin very receptive to our views and very willing to make the necessary efforts to help in the search for peace in Central America; to remove the threats of war, intervention, and aggression; and to help peace and democratization in Central America.

We have also continued to meet with representatives of the Radical and Intransigent Parties as well as with groups favoring solidarity with Nicaragua. We held a news conference today that was attended by more than 100 journalists. We have continued meeting with various political leaders. A short while ago we ended a meeting with representatives of the Argentine private sector involved in trade with Nicaragua. During the reception we met with a person known the world over, head of Mercedes Benz in Argentina. He is Juan Manuel Fangio, a famous racing driver whom we had heard about many years ago when we were young through news that arrived in our country from Argentina.

[Unidentified reporter] We understand he was world champion five times?

[Ortega] Yes. We met with him tonight, as well as with officials of the Alfonsin government and representatives of the Argentine private sector.

[Reporter] We understand that today you met with other Latin American leaders who attended Alfonsin's inauguration?

[Ortega] We have met with a number of leaders who were in Argentina. Last night we attended a meeting at the Spanish Embassy attended by most of the heads of state and prime ministers here for Alfonsin's presidential inauguration. It was attended by President Alfonsin, Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, French Premier Mauroy, Peruvian President Fernando Belaunde Terry, Costa Rican President Monge, Portuguese Prime Minister Soares, Cuban Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, and the Argentine vice president. After the meeting with President Alfonsin, we met with President Monge. We can state that it was a very positive meeting, since it confirmed the Costa Rican and Nicaraguan desire to hold a dialogue. We are countries that are, let us say, in a zone of conflict, and we should maintain communication and keep a dialogue open to face the current problems as best we can and seek their solution.

[Reporter] The Nicaraguan news media have pointed out that despite his high position, the U.S. vice president made a very brief visit to Argentina to attend the presidential inauguration. It has also been said that the Argentine people staged demonstrations of solidarity with the Nicaraguan people and revolution. What is your comment?

[Ortega] The Argentine people's support, solidarity, and friendship with the Nicaraguan people, as well as their repudiation of the aggressive policy against our people, have been clearly shown here.

Well, greetings from Buenos Aires to the Nicaraguan people, to the hard-working, organized, combative people, who are the ones who deserve the recognition expressed by the Argentine people. They are the ones who really deserve the applause we have received during our visit. They are the ones who through their efforts in production and combat make possible the increased prestige and moral strength of the Nicaraguan revolution, which are our main assets.

PRESIDENT ALFONSIN RECEIVES CONGRATULATIONS

Kennedy Message

PY132143 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2000 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Among the many messages of congratulations from throughout the world received by Raul Alfonsin is one sent by Democratic Senator Edward Kennedy.

In the message addressed to the Argentine president, Kennedy promises to support the Argentine efforts to uphold freedom and justice. The message was personally delivered to the chief of state by Kennedy advisor (Mark Schneider) during a meeting at Government House.

The message states that Alfonsin's election ends a phase of serious difficulties, and his assumption of power envisages a new era of respect for human rights, individual dignity, and democratic values. The text of the message points out that the confidence the Argentine citizenry has placed in his leadership represents the cornerstone for building a just, prosperous, and open society.

Senator Kennedy states that the historical Peoples' Assembly, which represented the first step toward the country's independence, has been recalled through the firm demand of every member of Argentine society for a return to democracy. The message adds that Alfonsin's presidency casts a ray of hope not only for Argentina, but for all those who seek democracy in Chile, Uruguay, Central America, and the entire world.

Mitterrand Message

PY130151 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1655 GMT 11 Dec 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 11 Dec (DYN) -- French President Francois Mitterrand has sent a message of congratulations to his Argentine counterpart, Raul Alfonsin, in which he voices "the French peoples' satisfaction over his assumption of power as president of the nation."

The French president's message, personally delivered to Alfonsin by Prime Minister Pierre Mauroy, reads:

"Your country, Argentina, has recovered the place it deserves in the concert of nations. This is a very important event for France. The fact that the great majority of Argentine citizens supported a person who represents a line of thinking so dear to the sensibility of the French people is another cause for satisfaction.

"Your assumption of power as president of the Argentine nation marks the beginning of a new phase which will allow our two countries and people to renew a long tradition of friendship and exchanges, and I would even dare say, of affection. On the day of your inauguration, I voice my deep and sincere desire that this excellent feeling will lead to a dynamic renewal of our natural cooperation.

"For this reason, I have requested my prime minister to represent me and convey to you the deep and effusive feelings this event awakens in the French people and their president.

"Allow me, Mr President, on this solemn occasion, to voice France's fervent desire for the success of your high mission. Be sure, Mr President, that I will always support you in our common cause, for development, for justice, democracy, and peace.

"Mr President, please accept my best wishes."

ALFONSIN MEETS WITH PERUVIAN PRESIDENT

PY131138 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1305 GMT 11 Dec 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 11 Dec (TELAM) -- Today Peruvian President Fernando Belaunde Terry voiced his satisfaction over the meeting held with President Raul Alfonsin and said that they had discussed various subjects, especially economic issues, a field in which we wish to establish full cooperation.

At the end of the 40-minute meeting held this morning with President Alfonsin at the presidential residence in Olivos, Belaunde Terry told the media that they also discussed the serious situation their two countries are enduring and the need for very close contact.

President Belaunde arrived shortly after 0800 at the presidential residence and was received by Alfonsin at 0810. The meeting was also attended by Peruvian ambassador to Argentina, Guillermo Hoyos Osores.

In referring to the economic subjects they discussed, Belaunde Terry stated that: Personally I believe that a ceiling for servicing the interests and amortization of the foreign debt of each country must be established. This is a proposal which we have been making for some time now. He added that we believe that by no means must a country be forced to pay more than 20 or 30 percent in interest and amortization of its foreign debt, and an agreement could be reached in this regard.

He said that he told Alfonsin that we are always alert and willing to reach an agreement on any suggestion which may represent a step forward in solving the difficult situation our countries are enduring.

Belaunde Terry pointed out that Peru views with the greatest of pleasure the beginning of this government, headed by Alfonsin, who is a person who has all the qualifications to be a good administrator for Argentina and who will exercise a very broad leadership that will surpass the frontiers of this country.

In answer to a question, he said that a very fruitful and mutually advantageous cooperation in the fishing sector could be agreed upon almost immediately. He noted that this subject, although briefly, was also discussed.

SOARES' CENTRAL AMERICAN EFFORTS ANALYZED

PY131955 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1805 GMT 13 Dec 83

[By special correspondent Juan Yofre]

[Text] Buenos Aires, 13 Dec (NA) -- During the past few days, our country was visited by important international personalities. In the opinion of observers, the most important visitors were Felipe Gonzalez, Bettino Craxi, George Bush, Pierre Mauroy, and Daniel Ortega.

There is no doubt that the situation in Central America was the main subject of discussion among these personalities. As a consequence, other visitors, due to their knowledge or the influence they have on the forces in the dispute, became engaged in important negotiations aimed at bringing about lasting peace in the region.

According to several diplomats in our country, the role played by the Portuguese prime minister was one of the most important ones, despite the fact that he was, as he constantly stated to his interlocutors during the talks held in Buenos Aires, the "representative of one of the poorest European countries." Although he preferred not to term himself an "intermediary" between Nicaragua and the United States, he ended up playing this role due to the development of the negotiations.

As is well known, Mario Soares' government maintains an excellent relationship with Reagan's administration and is one of the firmest supporters of the military alliance which links the old continent with Washington. Moreover, some observers have pointed out that despite the fact that he was a member of the opposition in Portugal, Soares was received by Reagan at the White House in 1981.

On the other hand, the Portuguese prime minister has open channels to the Sandinist junta. Soares is a member of the International Commission for the defense of the Sandinist Revolution, which allows him to confidently interact with the Nicaraguans.

Therefore, Mario Soares had the advantage of holding the two main pieces of the intricate and difficult Central American problem in his hands.

Since the beginning Soares voiced his concern over the depth that the crisis of the Managua-Washington relationship had reached. Therefore, he thought that a meeting between Bush and Ortega could be the first link of a chain which would lead to the restoration of peace in the region.

The Nicaraguan delegation took the initiative of beginning a dialogue that was also supported by the French and the Italians. However, the meeting did not take place, and the attempt ended in Bush and Ortega exchanging greetings during an official reception held by the Argentine Government.

According to the Nicaraguans, "there is no desire to reach peace." The U.S. delegation proposed that the U.S. assistant secretary for Latin American affairs meet either with Ortega or Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto. The Sandinist representatives answered that "they will meet with Motley with great pleasure -- but in Managua." Later they stated they needed to talk with a "valid" interlocutor of the U.S. Government, "with a man capable of making decisions."

Messages came and went, time ran out, and the long desired Buenos Aires dialogue never took place. In sum, a chance for peace in Central America was lost.

At the same time, the new authorities in the San Martin Palace [Argentine Foreign Ministry] tried to make their presence felt -- something they still do not have -- on the subject. In this regard, it was learned that the first foreign trip Foreign Minister Caputo will make will be to Central America. The new authorities of the Argentine Foreign Ministry believe that a dialogue between the United States and Nicaragua should take place to solve the Central American crisis. Moreover, as several Social Democrats assert, the Argentines maintain that the Sandinist junta should remain loyal to the front's original program that led to the ousting of Somoza in 1979. The program was based on three basic premises: sincere nonalignment, domestic political pluralism, and a mixed economy. The program continues to be fulfilled despite enormous difficulties and obstacles. Peace may be reached if, despite the pressure, the two parties manage to begin a dialogue through valid interlocutors. However, it is necessary to avoid what happended here in Buenos Aires from happening again.

GONZALEZ MEETS CHILEAN, URUGUAYAN OPPOSITION

PY130723 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0026 GMT 11 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 11 Dec (EFE) -- This afternoon Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez met with leaders of the Chilean and Uruguayan opposition. During the two separate meetings, Gonzalez voiced his support for the democratization of those two countries of the southern cone, while the leaders voiced their satisfaction over the results of the meetings.

The Chilean delegation was headed by Ricardo Lagos, head of the Democratic Alliance and the Socialist bloc, who was accompanied by Enrique Silva (Radical Party); Mario Sharpe (Social Democratic Party); and Armando Jaramillo (Republican right).

On its part, the Uruguayan delegation, which was much larger, was formed by Wilson Ferreira Aldunate, exiled leader of the Blanco Party; Juan Pivel Devoto, Carlos Julio Pereira, Alembert Vaz, Guillermo Garcia Acosta, and Bernardo Berro, all of the Blanco Party. The other members of the Uruguayan delegation were Julio Mario Sanguinetti, Jorge Batlle and Enrique Tarigo of the Colorado Party; Juan Pablo Terra of the Christian Democratic Party; Jose Tarabal of the Civic Union; and Jose Pedro Cardoso of the Socialist Party.

Ricardo Lagos told EFE that during the meetings with the Spanish prime minister they exchanged ideas on how to get Chile to democratize and how the European countries "are willing to cooperate with a democratic Chile" in the near future.

Asked about the possibility of Spain and other democratic governments cooperating with the Chilean democratization process, he said that "we are very careful regarding the practice of nonintervention." However, he pointed out that Chile could be granted economic cooperation and a commercial exchange in order to pull the country out of the serious economic crisis once a democracy has been established.

Lagos said that his country is experiencing a "social mobilization process" against General Augusto Pinochet's regime which might open the path to institutionalization. He pointed out that the Argentine example "quickly and with excellent results" speeds up the process in other countries under dictatorships, especially in the southern cone.

Uruguayan leader Wilson Ferreira Aldunate stated that he did not care whether the Uruguayan military government lifts the political ban on him;" I would care if the Uruguayan people banned me."

The delegations of the Uruguayan and Chilean opposition also held meetings with Bettino Craxi, Italian prime minister; French Prime Minister Pierre Mauroy; and Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Junta of Government of the National Revolution of Nicaragua.

FOREIGN LEADERS LEAVE AFTER INAUGURATION

PY132341 [Editorial Report] Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish at 1628 GMT on 12 December reports that the first foreign delegation departing Buenos Aires after attending President Raul Alfonsin's inauguration was the Venezuelan delegation led by Foreign Minister Jose Zambrano Velazco, who left on Saturday, 10 December, at 1230, without having attended the ceremony at which President Alfonsin greeted foreign dignitaries. This fact surprised diplomatic circles, and "the possibility of a disagreement among Venezuelan and Argentine officials has not been ruled out."

Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish at 2355 GMT on 12 December reports on the parting remarks made by Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi before leaving Argentina. Craxi says Italy will urge all EEC members to seek "more favorable conditions" in their future relations with Argentina. He notes, however, that Italy will not become a spokesman for Argentine interests since "Argentina maintains excellent relations with European countries and need not be represented."

Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish at 0130 GMT on 13 December reports that Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez left Argentina on 12 December at 2130. In a statement shortly before boarding his plane, Gonzalez said that in his meeting with President Alfonsin they reviewed bilateral and continental issues, and that the EEC was also a major subject of their discussions.

FOREIGN MINISTER CAPUTO RECEIVES PRC MINISTER

PY132115 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1536 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 13 Dec (TELAM) -- PRC Water Conservancy and Power Industry Minister Mrs Qian Zhengying stated today that she extended to Foreign Minister Dante Caputo her country's desire to increase ties in all fields that can be developed between the two nations.

During the 1/2 hour meeting with the foreign minister, the PRC visitor stated that the PRC people and government rejoice over the election of a democratic government in Argentina.

She stated: We feel that what happened over the past few days constitutes an event of great significance in Argentine history, adding that the Argentine people have made tremendous efforts to achieve peace, democracy, justice, and freedom.

Regarding relations between the two countries, the visitor stated that Caputo expressed interest in opening diplomatic channels to strengthen ties between the two countries. She also expressed thanks for the cordial words of the minister toward her country.

Mrs Zhengying also stated that she delivered a present to Caputo for President Raul Alfonsin, adding that it is silk embroidery that can be looked at from both sides; the motif symbolizes the vigor and prosperity of spring, a typical work of PRC craftsmanship.

RADICAL SENATOR MEETS WITH U.S. OFFICIALS

PY132353 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0032 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 12 Dec (DYN) -- The improvement of U.S.-Argentine relations, the future role that Raul Alfonsin's government will play within the Latin American context, and the resumption of negotiations over the Malvinas issue were some of the noteworthy subjects discussed during the closed-door meeting held by U.S. officials with Radical Senator Antonio Berhongaray today.

Senator Berhongaray, who heads the Senate Defense Commission, discussed subjects [words indistinct] area in a downtown site which was not revealed. The meeting was also attended by U.S. Ambassador Frank Ortiz, President Reagan's Ambassador-at-large Richard Stone, and the U.S. military attache in Argentina, Colonel Lopez.

Reliable spokesmen stated that during the meeting the U.S. officials revealed a favorable attitude toward the new Argentine Government and an agreement was reached on the need to "improve bilateral relations." The sources did not dismiss the possibility of "concrete measures" being taken in the short term although they refused to give any details.

Regarding the military sphere, the Radical senator allegedly voiced the Argentine Government's criticism of the U.S.-USSR arms race because "the third world countries" have to shoulder the economic cost of this military race. According to the spokesmen, Berhongaray had allegedly referred to the need to stop the arms race, rationalize the security expenditures, and the Argentine Government's decision to replace the national security concept with a national defense concept.

Another subject of discussion was the future role of the Inter-American Reciprocal Assistance Treaty [TIAX] and the faults it revealed during the armed conflict with Great Britain.

The Radical senator allegedly pointed out to his interlocutors the dual criteria of Reagan's foreign policy and mentioned the Malvinas and Grenada cases. Berhongaray allegedly asked the U.S. officials: "How can the United States possibly sanction Argentina for recovering the Malvinas Islands through military means and then invade Grenada?"

According to the spokesmen, the U.S. officials voiced their intention of acting as a "bridge" between Argentina and Great Britain and reiterated their willingness to intercede with Margaret Thatcher's government.

The open-agenda meeting also discussed Argentina's stance on atomic energy. At this point, Berhongaray reasserted his country's decision to use nuclear energy for "peaceful purposes."

The renegotiation of the Argentine foreign debt was also analyzed during the meeting. The Radical senator explained that the Alfonsin government's intention is to get the international banking sector to grant measures of support to Argentina similar to those granted to Brazil and Mexico, although he pointed out that "the interest rates of those measures are still very high." In this regard, the U.S. officials hinted at the possibility that Reagan's administration might intercede with the U.S. bankers to establish more flexible conditions for Argentina.

During the meeting, the foreign visitors voiced their surprise over the demonstration of support for the new government held on the streets last Saturday, especially over the [words indistinct].

From that point of view, the U.S. officials assessed Raul Alfonsin's future role, especially within the Latin American context. Senator Berhongaray's interlocutors stated that Argentina's return to democracy will play an important role in the rest of the continent, especially in political development in countries such as Chile, Uruguay, and Brazil. The spokesmen then stressed President Raul Alfonsin's future role as an element of unity in Latin America.

PRESIDENT ALFONSIN MEETS WITH MRS PERON

PY131936 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1710 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 13 Dec (TELAM) -- Presidential spokesman Jose Ignacio Lopez reported here today that Mrs (Maria Estela Martinez de) Peron has expressed her frank disposition and commitment to strengthening and furthering democracy in Argentina during a meeting she held today with President Raul Alfonsin. Lopez said Alfonsin was very satisfied over the meeting at which current national issues were discussed.

PERON, JUSTICIALISTS MEET; RESIGNATIONS PROPOSED

PY131440 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0110 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 12 Dec (DYN) -- Today former President Maria Estela Martinez de Peron criticized the Justicialist leader for the way they conducted the electoral campaign and announced that she will consider the resignation of the top party leaders as soon as she comes back to Argentina "to lead the movement."

Mrs Peron met with Justicialist leaders for more than 2 hours at the Bauen Hotel in this capital. The meeting ended at 2140. It was learned that it was metalworker leader Lorenzo Miguel who put the resignation of the Justicialist leaders at Mrs Peron's disposal.

POLITICIANS SUPPORT NICARAGUA; STATEMENT ISSUED

PY122150 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1840 GMT 11 Dec 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 11 Dec (TELAM) -- At noon today Oscar Alende, leader of the Intransigent Party; Augusto Conte, national deputy for the Christian Democratic Party; Adolfo Perez Esquivel, Nobel Peace prize winner, and other personalities that attended a reception to fete the Nicaraguan delegation voiced their support for the Nicaraguan people in their struggle to defend their social rights and the institutionalization of democracy within the context of political pluralism. This support was voiced through a statement to the media.

Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Nicaraguan Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, was at the reception held in a downtown Buenos Aires hotel where the Nicaraguan delegation is lodged.

The statement says that the Argentine people, who have managed to win democratic institutions through their struggle, have also recovered the right to publicly voice the solidarity and fraternal feeling that link them with the other Latin American people with whom they share the common ideal of sovereignty and freedom.

The document adds that due to these reasons, one cannot remain indifferent to the difficult situation experienced by the people of Nicaragua, who are constantly subject to economic pressure, sabotage, and military maneuvers that threaten the task of national reconstruction begun in 1979, after the Somoza tyranny was ousted, as well as peace and stability in the entire region.

The statement adds that democracy and peace in Latin America will only be achieved with social justice, the sovereignty of the people, and respect for the self-determination of nations. It warns that the military solution advocated by those who believe in a big stick policy will only bring the entire Central American region into a fratricidal war that will only bring more sorrow and destruction to their people.

MINISTER REPORTS ON FOREIGN DEBT PAYMENT

PY140013 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2135 13 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 13 Dec (NA) -- Today Argentine Economy Minister Bernardo Grinspun announced that the constitutional government will propose to its creditors the consolidation of the portions of the foreign debt that fell due in 1982 and 1983 together with that which will fall due next year in order to negotiate a staggered payments plan.

The economy minister also revealed that Argentina will not [as received] pay $8 billion which state enterprises owe abroad, an amount which falls due tomorrow (Thursday).

The minister met for an hour with representatives of the committee of foreign bankers who are coordinating the refinancing of the debt. Grinspun was accompanied by his advisers Ubaldo Aguirre and Teodoro Fernandez. At the end of the meeting the economy minister talked with journalists accredited to the Finance Ministry to report on the issues discussed with the international bankers.

Grinspun explained that today's round of talks "was the first meeting aimed at having clear ideas on the subject" and to "convey to the banks to whom we owe money that we want to reschedule the debt due 31 December 1984 as well as those portions of it that fell due in 1982 and 1983."

He pointed out that the economic team plans to consolidate the unpaid portion of the debt together with that which will fall due in 1984 in order to "propose a payment plan which will be based on an estimate of the trade balance, payment for services, and the foreign currency needed to rebuild the level of reserves of the Central Bank.

Asked about the current amount of the foreign debt, Grinspun merely said that "this is what we would like to know," explaining that each component of the state quotes a different figure, and that a new survey is being made by the Central Bank. This survey "will give us a precise idea of how much we owe, to whom, and for what."

The economy minister pointed out that he will meet with the committee of bankers next Thursday at 1000 and that then the bankers will have an answer to the proposal Grinspun made today.

TRADE SECRETARY ANNOUNCES PRICE CONTROLS

PY140253 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 13 Dec 83 p 1

[Text] (NA) -- Trade Secretary Ricardo Campero last night confirmed the virtual freezing of prices affecting the family bread-basket, medicines and those marketed by all firms whose sales invoices have been upwards of $200,000,000 during the past 12 months.

President Raul Alfonsin, in an all-out effort to slash the 353 percent inflation rate, ordered the Trade Secretariat to make sure retailers limited their markups to no more than 60 percent above the factory price on key consumer goods. The price controls cover food, school uniforms and supplies, product containers and cleaning supplies. Meat and fish are the only food items exempted. Alfonsin's action was the first step towards making good on a campaign pledge to bring inflation down to double-digits level in his first year in office.

In the two weeks preceding Alfonsin's inauguration retailers marked up prices at an unprecedented rate -- in some cases 100 percent -- in anticipation of a possible price freeze. The markups raised the cost of canned food 40 to 60 percent, tea 10 percent, cleaning supplies 80 percent, and wine 100 percent. Under the new controls, producers who have raised factory prices more than 100 percent since June 30 must justify the hikes in writing to the Trade Secretariat. The secretariat can lower the prices if the explanations are inadequate. In addition, companies introducing new products must submit their suggested prices to the secretariat which can approve or modify it.

Businessmen reacted cautiously to the controls, saying they had expected them, but were nevertheless disappointed. Some predicted the burgeoning of a black market. "Of course we raised our prices more than 100 percent in the past six months" said one school supplies manufacturer, whose products come under the new controls. "Inflation has been rising at nearly 20 percent a month since June and so we logically tried to keep up with it" he added.

Some quarters recalled that during the last civilian government, led by President Juan Domingo Peron and then by his widow, Isabel, the imposition of price ceilings created a black market.

ANTI-U.S PROTEST HELD OUTSIDE CONSULATE IN RIO

PY102318 Paris AFP in Spanish 0348 GMT 10 Dec 83

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, 9 Dec (AFP) -- Approximately 200 persons gathered outside the U.S. Consulate in Rio de Janeiro today to protest the U.S. military attacks on Syrian, Lebanese, and Palestinian fighters.

Representatives of the Arab community in Rio de Janeiro and some Brazilians staged a peaceful demonstration in the presence of the Brazilian military police deployed outside the U.S. Consultate. At the end of the demonstration, the demonstrators dispersed peacefully.

Anisio Khadar, president of the Association of Young Arab-Brazilians, told newsmen that they had sent a document to Brazilian President Joao Figueiredo requesting that he state his government's position on the unjustified U.S. aggression against Lebanese, Palestinian, and Syrian fighters.

NETTO BEGINS MIDDLE EAST TOUR IN ABU DHABI

PY121241 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Planning Minister Delfim Netto is now in Abu Dhabi to hold talks with officials of the United Arab Emirates. During his tour, which will also include Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, and Kuwait, Netto will seek to obtain a $70-million loan.

This loan is intended to supplement another loan previously granted to Brazil by the international financial community to solve Brazil's economic problems.

Affected by Bomb Blast in Kuwait

PY130238 Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 0200 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Text] An official report released by the Planning Ministry on the trip of Planning Minister Delfim Netto to the Arab nations states that the minister and his delegation could not stay at the Hilton Hotel in Kuwait as scheduled due to the terrorist attack at the U.S. Embassy.

The windows of the hotel were broken by the explosion of the bomb thrown at the embassy, which is located nearby. The minister, who is optimistic about Arab participation in a huge loan to Brazil, will hold separate meetings tomorrow with the finance minister and the Kuwait Central Bank governor.

GOVERNORS VIEW FIGUEIREDO SPEECH, ELECTIONS

PY091500 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Text] Minas Gerais Governor Tancredo Neves of the Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party [PMDB], Santa Catarina Governor Espiridiao Amin of the Soviet Democratic Party, and Parana Governor Jose Richa of the PMDB have commented on President Figueiredo's recent speech.

According to the governors, the speech puts a lid on the subject of the return to direct elections.

In this regard, the Minas Gerais governor pointed out that the president never mentioned the holding of indirect elections, but neither did he voice his opposition to direct elections. For his part, Governor Espiridiao Amin stated that the speech reflected well-founded concern, but does not end discussions regarding direct elections. Governor Jose Richa commented that on previous occasions, President Figueiredo had made favorable statements regarding direct elections; therefore, he might review his political stance in favor of indirect elections.

STATE OF EMERGENCY IN BRASILIA TO END 17 DECEMBER

PY140055 Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 2150 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Text] Brasilia -- The state of emergency which has been in effect in the Federal District since 17 October will be revoked, as scheduled, on 17 December.

The Planalto military commander, General Newton de Oliveira Cruz, [words indistinct] President Figueiredo. Newton Cruz stated that he was only the executor of the measure and that [words indistinct] (?he is unable to comment) on the orders he carried out.

NAVY MINISTER OUTLINES NUCLEAR SUBMARINE PLANS

PY140417 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 13 Dec 83 p 8

[Text] Yesterday, Brazilian Navy Minister Maximiano da Fonseca told O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO and JORNAL DA TARDE that the Navy is already involved in a project to build a nuclear submarine for Brazil, an objective which will be achieved by the end of the nineties.

"The project is working out fine and this submarine will undoubtedly be a great step forward for Brazil, because it will be nuclear-powered. It is a highly significant piece of equipment for any navy in the world," the minister added. Minister Maximiano da Fonseca spoke during a Navy celebration at the Brazilian Jockey Club.

According to the admiral, "a nuclear submarine is a common objective among the modern navies of the world and Brazil cannot neglect the quest for this technology, which involves technical development and manpower training."

The project, which the minister revealed "is the first to involve the use of nuclear technology for military purposes." It reflects a true desire of the Navy, according to one of the admirals who have been asked for an opinion on the minister's remarks, because its development involves technology "considerably more complex than that of a nuclear powerplant to produce energy because the reactor of a ship must be a lot smaller."

This same admiral, who is considered to be one of the best Brazilian strategists, believes that "a nuclear submarine plays a very significant role in a conflict because, since it is able to hold its position at the operation site indefinitely. Its ability to tilt the balance of power mainly relies on the submarine crew's capability to maintain its station." The nuclear submarine deserves the name of submarine much more so than the conventional type because among other reasons, atomic submarines can remain under water a long time and have to resort to their snorkel very infrequently to take in air to remain submerged."

While conventional submarines have a range of only about 30 days, the nuclear submarine can stay underwater much longer. This allows it to play a very significant strategic role in modern warfare. The conventional submarine is still quieter than the nuclear version, but the advantages of the latter are considerably greater. For example, during World War II submarines attacked mostly from the surface and not under water. This would certainly not happen in a conflict involving nuclear submarines. Former Navy Chief of Staff Admiral Eddy Sampaio Espellet said that the project for a nuclear-powered submarine began when he was Navy chief of staff under Minister Geraldo Azevedo Henning in President Ernesto Geisel's administration.

He said that "a nuclear submarine is essential for any modern navy. It does not need to refuel like conventional submarines, and therefore does not have the range restrictions of conventional submarines." As far as the construction of the warship itself goes, the admiral said that it does not pose any great problems, "because whoever can build conventional submarines can build nuclear ones."

Minister Maximiano da Fonseca reported that he has already paved the way for the construction of a submarine for Brazil in the FRG. This submarine will belong to the IKI-209 class and its construction could begin in 1984.

ARMED FORCES PROMOTIONS, APPOINTMENTS ANNOUNCED

PY091845 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 25 Nov 83 p 7

[Text] President Joao Figueiredo has signed decrees promoting nine generals and making new command appointments in the Army.

Major Generals Jose Albuquerque and Ivan de Souza Mendes have been promoted to generals. Brigadier Generals Everaldo de Oliveira Reis and Mario Orlando Ribeiro Sampaio have been promoted to major generals. Brigadier General Laurindo Magrini, Quartermaster Corps, has been promoted to major general. Colonels Benedito Onofre Bezerra Leonel, Francisco Rodrigues Fernandes Junior, and Job Lorena de Sant' Anna have been promoted to brigadier generals; Colonel Raymundo dos Santos Maia, Quartermaster Corps, has been promoted to brigadier general.

General Jose Magalhaes da Silveira has been appointed chief of staff, replacing General Tulio Chagas Nogueira, who was appointed to the Supreme Military Court. To replace General Silveira, General Jose Albuquerque has been appointed as chief of the War Materiel Department. General Leonidas Pires Goncalves has been appointed commander of the Third Army, replacing General Henrique Beckmann Filho who passed into the reserves. To replace General Leonidas Pires Goncalves, General Mario Silva O'Reilly Souza has been transferred from the Education and Research Department to the Army Economy and Finance Secretariat. General Ivan de Souza Mendes, who was the chief of the Engineering and Communications Department is the new head of the Army Economy and Finance Secretariat.

Major General Joaquin Abreu Fonseca has been appointed deputy Army chief of staff. To replace him, Major General Waldir Pereira da Rocha has been transferred from the Ninth Military Region Command and Ninth Army Division to the Training and Advanced Training Directorate. Major General Alvir Souto has been appointed deputy chief of the Communications and Engineering Department. To replace him as patrimony director, Major General Mario Orlando Ribeiro Sampaio was transferred from the post of chief of the Army Information Center. Brigadier General Iris Lustosa de Oliveira, who was cabinet chief of the Army Ministry, has been appointed chief of the Army Information Center.

Major General Everaldo de Oliveira Reis was transferred from the command of the Fourth Military Region to the Command of the Ninth Military Region (Juiz de Fora). Major General Laurindo Magrini, Quartermaster Corps, was appointed as director of supplies.

Brigadier General Francisco Rodrigues Fernandes Junior was appointed commander of the 17th Forest Infantry Brigade (Porto Velho), replaceing Brigadier General Paulo Meirelles, who was appointed military attache in Washington. Brigadier General Wladimir de Azevedo was appointed director of preparatory and remedial education, replacing Brigadier General Jose Ramos de Alencar who was transferred to the reserves. Brigadier General Job Lorena de Sant'Anna was appointed commander of the First Engineering and Construction Group (Joao Pessoa).

In the Navy, Rear Admiral Henrique Saboia has been promoted to admiral. Rear Admirals (lower half) Luiz Fernando da Silva Souza and Henrique Octavio Ache Pilar have been promoted to rear admirals (upper half). Captain Pedro Steenhagen has been promoted to rear admiral (lower half).

In the Air Force, Brigadier General Pedro Ivo Seixas has been promoted to Major General. Colonels Carlos de Almeida Baptista, Eurico Fernando de Araujo Cortes, Ely Jardim de Mattos, and Alberto Baltar have been promoted to brigadier generals.

U.S. ENVOY VERNON WALTERS MEETS WITH PINOCHET

PY132111 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Text] Yesterday President Augusto Pinochet received several verbal messages that U.S. President Ronald Reagan sent him through General Vernon Walters, the special U.S. envoy for political and military affairs. Walters, who held two meetings with the Chilean president, said that he came to Chile to discuss bilateral issues and to exchange views on continental and world matters. Walters and the Chilean president also addressed the issue of [human rights] certification, that is, the lifting of the embargo on arms sales to Argentina. In this regard, Gen Walters said:

[Begin Walters recording in Spanish] The United States remains committed to some policies: First, the preservation of a regional balance in this part of the world. The United States is not in favor of (?uncontrolled sales of arms for various purposes) that may be regarded as offensive. Third, [as heard] we supported and still support the principle of nonuse of force to change borders. The United States proved its commitment to this principle last year at the cost of many difficulties that we had to face in our relations with other countries of this continent. We also hope that the papal proposal will be accepted by all interested parties. [end recording]

Gen Walters termed the meeting he held with President Pinochet as very cordial and frank. He stressed that Chile is a very important country in this continent, that it is a prestigious nation, that it is inhabited by worthy people, and that it can significantly contribute to regional stability and progress.

Speaking at Government House, the U.S. envoy said that the United States has repeatedly indicated that it would like Chile and Argentina to come to an agreement soon. We hope the papal proposal will be accepted, he added.

Ambassador Theberge on Talks

PY140029 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Text] U.S. Ambassador to Chile James Theberge has asserted that his country wishes to maintain peace on the continent.

This statement was made at the end of a meeting held with Chilean Foreign Minister Miguel Schweitzer. The ambassador disclosed that during the meeting they discussed technical issues and subjects not related to U.S.-Chilean bilateral relations.

Regarding Washington's interest in preserving peace on the continent, he stated that it is basically due to the fact that any use of force or threats are contrary to U.S. policy. Regarding Vernon Walter's recent visit to Chile, the ambassador stressed that he had not made any request to the Chilean Government nor had he brought any message; he only held talks.

CNI CHIEF INTERVIEWED ON NATIONAL SECURITY

PY100248 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 4 Dec 83 pp 1, 2 Sec D

[Interview with General Humberto Gordon, head of the National Intelligence Center, [CNI], in his office, by EL MERCURIO journalist Raquel Correa -- date not given]

[Excerpts] Security and Intelligence

[Correa] General, what is your concept of national security? Why are there different points of view and doctrines?

[Gordon] I believe that national security means giving a country all the elements necessary for its people to be able to live and work in peace without fear that their country's territorial integrity will be attacked or that their personal assets will be confiscated. To achieve this, among other things, it is necessary to do away with terrorism.

[Correa] Who is in charge of seeing that national security exists in a country?

[Gordon] The armed and security forces as well as the citizens' consciousness and sense of morality to abide by the truth. But, of course -- he added jokingly -- we have had it with this bunch of liars.

[Correa] What is the position of national security in Chile today?

[Gordon] National security is like love: there is never enough.

[Correa] Isn't Chilean national security currently seriously threatened by poverty, the high unemployment rate, and underemployment?

[Gordon] Naturally.

Political Opening

[Correa] According to the information the National Intelligence Center [CNI] has, what is the current level of popularity of the regime? Has it dropped or risen in comparison to 3 years or 6 months ago?

[Gordon] The people's opinion is very sensible and changeable. I am a democrat and love politicians, but they make me sick. I hope you will not include what I have just said in the interview. Compared to a year ago, the regime's popularity has risen because the people appreciate the honesty and effort made by the president of the Republic, who has no other desire or goal in mind than to leave the country in the best economic, social, and cultural shape. All he desires for Chile is progress.

[Correa] What influences has the beginning of a political opening had on national security?

[Gordon] The political opening per se has had no influence on national security, but it has allowed many people to take the liberty of saying what they think though the newspapers and other sectors of the media. The political opening naturally affects national security when it is said that the president must go in order to start talks.

[Correa] Has the lifting of the state of emergency and curfew affected national security?

[Gordon] It has not, but it could. The most brutal crimes -- such as General Carol Urzua's assassination -- did not take place when the curfew was in force.

[Correa] In your opinion -- from the intelligence point of view -- what importance do the acts of protest which took place in the country as of 11 May have? Do you consider them a sign of overflowing discontent, or the result of "a soft hand" policy?

[Gordon] Neither one or the other. It is the result of the mere desire of some people to return to power. Those are the people who stir up unrest.

The Terrorists

[Correa] The day you took over as CNI director -- in 1980 -- you said that you intended to place the Movement of the Revolutionary Left [MIR] under control. Would you say that you have managed to do so?

[Gordon] I would say that the MIR is under control. The movement itself became aware of its weakness and started to work on the "return plan," bringing people -- including some who were not Chilean citizens, as was proven by the participation of an Argentine citizen in the murder of Gen Urzua -- back to strengthen itself.

[Correa] From the national security point of view, do you think it necessary for the state of domestic disturbance as well as Transitory Article No 24 to be in force?

[Gordon] Yes, with capital letters, even if this may annoy all our enemies.

[Correa] In your capacity has head of the CNI, what is your opinion of the problems of those Chileans in exile?

[Gordon] I agree with the currently held criterion.

[Correa] In your opinion, who are the persons who should never be allowed back into the country?

[Gordon] Those who promote violence, the terrorists, and those who have been disloyal and betrayed the fatherland, telling lies abroad for their own benefit.

[Correa] In your opinion, who or what institution would decide who should remain in exile and who should return?

[Gordon] The government.

The Path of Violence

[Correa] What image do you, who have become well acquainted with them, have of the terrorists?

[Gordon] The extremists are men and women who have no god nor law. They have no respect for anything.

[Correa] Do you consider them cowards or brave people?

[Gordon] They are daring people, and the women are especially daring.

[Correa] Why do you think they resort to violence?

[Gordon] In order to attain through force what they cannot attain through reason. Terrorism is closely linked to Marxism. Terrorists become more and more corrupt as time goes by.

I believe that they are somewhat mentally deranged. They do not know or do not weigh the consequences of what they do. They carefully plan all their actions. I consider them mentally deranged people.

[Correa] What do you think is the reason for so many people taking the path of violence under this government?

[Gordon] Because this government has defeated Marxism. Those who resort to violence are not Catholics but Marxists who have been trained in Cuba and other countries under the aegis of the USSR.

[Correa] Do you believe in the saying that violence begets more violence?

[Gordon] If it begets more violence, it could also call for peace, because the people should understand how terrible violence is.

[Correa] As regards the methods used to wipe out terrorism, don't you think that rather than repressing terrorism, they heighten it even more?

[Gordon] Violence will never lure upright people. Everybody should look forward to terrorism being wiped out as soon as possible.

[Correa] General, what do you think are the positive goals of the antiterrorist law?

[Gordon] To preserve the country's security and to give the people the joy of living in peace.

[Correa] General, do you think it right to violate human rights for the sake of national security?

[Gordon] If everybody respected human rights, there would be no violations.

The Right To Arrest People

[Correa] There is a true national clamor for the CNI's dissolution. Various organizations and institutions have been requesting it.

[Gordon] I think it truly regrettable. The CNI is only engaged in fighting terrorists to secure the people's well-being. I believe that these people do not seriously analyze the situation before requesting the CNI's dissolution. I would dare say that the requests pursue other objectives.

[Correa] The government has stated that the CNI is "an intelligence organization in a broad sense." I would like to know, General, whether in a broad sense intelligence does not imply repression instead?

[Gordon] No.

[Correa] The DINA [National Intelligence Directorate] had the power to arrest people under Article No 10 of Decree Law No 321. On the other hand, Decree Law No 1,878, which created the CNI in August 1977, does not empower the CNI to make arrests. Why then does the CNI arrest people?

[Gordon] The CNI only makes arrests on order of the Interior Ministry.

[Correa] According to an appellate court ruling, the CNI is not entitled to arrest people...

[Gordon] I agree with the president of the Republic: It is just another opinion.

[Correa] Your predecessor General Odianier Mena stated once that the CNI "can only make arrests under special legislation which places the national territory under a state of emergency." Now that the state of emergency has been lifted, why does the CNI continue to arrest people?

[Gordon] I already told you that it is on orders of the Interior Ministry.

Questionings

[Correa] General, what does the CNI do with the detainees?

[Gordon] In general and in principle, the CNI arrests individuals who have participated in actions against the government or the national security or who have committed homicide or negligent homicide [cuasi homicidios] within the country. These people have criminal records. After they are arrested, they are questioned to prove whether they were responsible for the act or whether they must be set free. The detainees sign their testimonies and then between 5 and 20 days at the maximum -- as is established by law -- they are put at the disposal of the courts to undergo trial.

[Correa] Statistics show that most of the CNI detainees are innocent. What does this prove?

[Gordon] It proves the CNI's integrity.

[Correa] Could it not prove that excesses are committed?

[Gordon] No. It proves the CNI's integrity.

[Correa] According to some detainees, the questionings in CNI's precincts include electric shocks down to...[Gen Gordon interrupting]

[Gordon] No. The CNI does not torture people.

[Correa] There are innumerable testimonies which prove that the CNI does in fact torture people, General.

[Gordon] All the testimonies and reports in this regard are false. The minute the CNI arrests somebody a lawyer appears to exploit the situation.... I don't like to make prejudgments, but I can assure you that nobody has any grounds to maintain those allegations.

[Correa] Are you being sincere, General?

[Gordon] Yes. I warn you that I head the CNI.

[Correa] Does that mean that no events that are above and beyond your supervision can occur?

[Gordon] You are right, unless at one time or other somebody carries out an action I am not aware of. However, since I supervise all the actions, I would know of it later, as occurred with the Calama case.

[Correa] Do you believe that the Calama case has been totally clarified?

[Gordon] Yes. As far as I know, yes.

[Correa] Why does the CNI use irregular procedures to arrest people?

[Gordon] I am not aware of that. All the arrests are made on orders, and the CNI can only make arrests when it catches somebody red-handed. In that case, an arrest order is immediately requested.

[Correa] Do you mean to say that the CNI does not arrest people without an order?

[Gordon] Only when the criminal is caught red-handed, as I told you. But it immediately requests an arrest order.

[Correa] The CNI is also being charged with using cars without license plates.

[Gordon] That is not true.

[Correa] But there are so many witnesses, General.

[Gordon] It is not true, and the proof of this is that witnesses have said that they have taken down the license plate numbers of CNI vehicles.

[Correa] It is also said that the CNI agents do not show their identification cards during operations.

[Gordon] The people can say things, but they have to prove them. This has not been proven yet.

Secret Prisons

[Correa] Why has the government permitted the CNI to have and maintain secret prisons, something which is illegal from the legal point of view and monstrous from the moral and human standpoint?

[Gordon] The CNI neither has nor does it maintain secret prisons. The CNI arrests and holds its detainees between 5 and 20 days based on an order.

[Correa] Where does it keep them?

[Gordon] You must have read in the papers about two meetings held by a specific organization over the past few days. They even showed up in front of the precinct with signs. If they know about them, it means that they are not secret.

[Correa] Do you refer to the CNI precinct along Borgono Street?

[Gordon] See, you know as well. Then why do you tell me they are secret?

[Correa] And the ones along Duble Almeyda Street, Tres y Cuatro Alamos Street and...

[Gordon] There are no others.

[Correa] Why then is the justice minister studying a decree ordering that the CNI prisons be public?

[Gordon] You should ask the minister.

[Correa] As CNI director, what do you have to say about the people who have disappeared from CNI prisons?

[Gordon] Nobody has disappeared from any CNI prison.

[Correa] According to the lawyer of Tucapel Jimenez' family, CNI agents were involved in his murder....

[Gordon] No CNI agent was involved in Tucapel Jimenez' murder. This is why I filed charges against that lawyer.

[Correa] How can you be so sure about that, General?

[Gordon] Because I conducted a thorough investigation of my personnel so that I could have a clear conscience.

[Correa] A last question, General. What do you think of Sebastian Acevedo's immolation in Concepcion because your organization had arrested his children?

[Gordon] It is something worth Ripley's attention because it is incredible but true. If two of my children were arrested, I would investigate rather than burn myself up. His daughter, who had been set free by the CNI, was later convicted by the courts. This means that our arrest was not unjust.... I believe the man was insane. I would not think of saving my children that way.

[Correa] General, what did you think of it as a father?

[Gordon] I felt deep sorrow. I don't know why, but I was deeply moved by the thought that his immolation left his two children without a father.

CNI ARRESTS 'SALVADOR ALLENDE BRIGADE' MEMBERS

FY132024 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Text] Four subversives, members of the Salvador Allende Brigade of the outlawed [name indistinct] Party have been arrested. The terrorists had attacked the metropolitan railroad and the transmission tower of the Aurora FM station on San Cristobal hill. They also robbed an EL MERCURIO newspaper distribution house on [street name indistinct] and tried to blow up the Channel 13 antenna.

Police confiscated a large number of explosives, enough to destroy a high-rise building, three [name indistinct] pistols, a 38-caliber Smith and Wesson revolver; helmets, equipment to manufacture tire bursters, and blueprints of police headquarters and banks that they planned to rob.

They were identified as (Vladimir Berselli Lubian), (Ramon Nogueira Baraona), (Jose Morales Izacana) and (Luis Lopez Mora) 41,44, 47 and 35-years-old respectively. The case was handled by the National Intelligence Center [CNI], and they were all placed at the disposal of the military courts.

Demonstrators Evicted, Detained

FY132004 Paris AFP in Spanish 1540 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Text] Santiago, 13 Dec (AFP) -- Judicial circles reported today that the police have evicted and detained the relatives of missing detainees who have been on an indefinite hunger strike against the continuous violation of human rights in Chile.

It has been reported that the detainees, nine men and a woman, who have been at a university school since Monday, were placed at the disposal of the Interior Ministry.

By our action we want to call attention to the existence of the CNI [National Intelligence Center], which is responsible for most of the cases of missing detainees and other violations of human rights which appall all Chileans, the demonstrators stated. The strikers stated in a declaration that CNI Director General Humberto Gordon lies when he claims to be ignorant of the existence of secret jails in the country and the practice of torture.

BURNED BUSES, BOMB BLASTS MARK END OF JOB PROGRAM

PY130032 Paris AFP in Spanish 1546 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Text] Santiago, 13 Dec (AFP) -- Police sources report that two buses were set on fire and four bombs were detonated today in some Santiago neighborhoods where the military government suspended emergency employment programs for thousands of jobless people.

The burned buses were parked in front of the houses of their owners, while the bomb blasts affected public buildings. This comes after other bomb attacks staged on Sunday by unknown commandoes. According to intelligence service sources, they might belong to leftist groups.

During the seven days of protest that the opposition has sponsored since May in Chile, six buses have been burned by demonstrators opposed to the regime of General Augusto Pinochet. [as received]

BRAZILIAN CONGRESSIONAL LEADER MEETS JUNTA MEMBERS

PY140228 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Flavio Macilio, president of the Brazilian Chamber of Deputies, has stated that there are so-called friendly nations that try to interfere in the domestic affairs of other countries. This was stated by Macilio, who headed a group of Brazilian congressmen that met with the members of the Chilean Government junta at the Diego Portales building.

Expressing thanks for the Chilean Government's warm welcome, Macilio stated that the people have the right to freely and independently choose their future without other countries' interference.

NEW EPISCOPATE CONFERENCE PRESIDENT APPOINTED

PY132342 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Text] Monsignor Bernardino Pinera has been elected president of the Episcopate Conference during the meeting of the 28 Chilean bishops in Punta de Tralca. Temuco Bishop Sergio Contreras has been appointed secretary general of the Episcopate Conference. Msgr Bernardino Pinera, who is 68 years old and the present bishop of La Serena, was secretary general of the Chilean Episcopate Conference for the past 4 years. For 17 years he was [words indistinct] of Temuco and auxiliary bishop of Talca. He replaces Concepcion Archbishop Jose Manuel Santos, who was president of the Episcopate Conference for 4 years.

STONE ARRIVES IN BOGOTA; TO MEET WITH BETANCUR

PA140131 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 Dec 83

[Text] Bogota -- U.S. special envoy Richard Stone arrived in Bogota this afternoon from Caracas in order to continue his mission, which concerns the Central American situation.

Amid strict security measures at the Bogota military airport, Stone was received by U.S. Ambassador Arthur Lewis Tambs. Stone only told the press that he will meet with President Belisario Betancur and Foreign Minister Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo tomorrow at 0900 at the Narino Palace.

He did say, however, that some progress has been achieved toward a solution of the conflict, and expressed the hope that he will be able to give additional details on how he views the problem and its recent evolution. He then told newsmen: I prefer to study the new alternatives with President Betancur and Foreign Minister Lloreda. Perhaps I will be able to tell you something later.

After his meeting in the Colombian capital, Stone will go on to Costa Rica to hold further consultations with President Monge and his close assistants.

BRIEFS

AGREEMENT WITH USSR -- Colombia and the USSR have signed a cultural and scientific agreement which will be implemented next year. This agreement provides for the exchange of cultural, artistic, scientific, and athletic delegations. It was signed by Foreign Minister Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo and Soviet Ambassador Leonid Romanov at San Carlos Palace. [Text] [Bogota El SIGLO in Spanish 3 Dec 83 p 2 PA]

PETROLEUM PROJECT -- The Colombian Petroleum Enterprise, ECOPETROL, is planning a large project to produce 100 million barrels of residual crude in the (Catave) field in Antioquia. This will require a $450 million investment. Francisco Chona, head of the ECOPETROL production project division, indicated that the (CATAVE) project has already begun and that through the system of secondary recovery of the oilfields that are almost depleted, about 30,000 barrels a day will begin to be produced in 1985. [Summary] [Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 7 Dec 83 PA]

MILITARY PROMOTIONS -- The following military promotions have been approved by President Belisario Betancur and National Defense Minister General Fernando Landazabal Reyes, through Decree No 3243 of November 1983: Major Generals Bernardo Lema Henao and Guillermo Jaramillo Berrio, currently joint chiefs of staff of the Military Forces General Command and the National Army's General Command respectively, were promoted to general. Brigadier Generals Gilberto Franco Vasquez, Francisco Hernando Diaz San Miguel, and Jose Guillermo Medina Sanchez, of the National Police, were promoted to major general. Colonels Ubaldo Franco Aristizabal, Alfonso Efrain Aldana Herrera, Jose Luis Vargas Villegas, and Eduardo Pinilla Mendoza of the National Police were promoted to brigadier general. [Excerpts] [Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 7 Dec 83 p 8 PA]

PRESIDENT BELAUNDE RETURNS FROM ARGENTINA

PY131934 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Excerpt] President Belaunde has arrive in Lima deeply satisfied with having fulfilled his mission in Argentina and impressed by the expressions of real devotion for Peru. President Belaunde arrived in Lima last night after a 4-day visit to Argentina where he was invited to attend President Alfonsin's inauguration.

NICARAGUA'S ORTEGA COMMENTS ON TRUCE PROPOSAL

PY140325 Paris AFP in Spanish 2145 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Text] Lima, 13 Dec (AFP) -- Commander Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, stated here today that he will not ask the Somozist groups fighting the Sandinist regime for a Christmas and New Year truce.

During a stopover in Lima on his return from Buenos Aires, where he attended President Raul Alfonsin's inauguration, Ortega said that he agreed that hostilities should cease on such significant dates, but my government will not request a truce since it would mean acknowledging the counterrevolutionary groups supported by the United States.

He also stated that he is certain that the foreign ministers of the Central American countries will accept most of the 21 proposals made by the Contadora Group (Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia and Panama) seeking peace for the region. Ortega pointed out that on 21 December the Contadora Group foreign ministers will meet in Managua to arrange the final details of their proposal, which will be analyzed by the Central American foreign ministers next January.

HAVANA ON KILLING OF 8 CIVILIANS IN AYACUCHO

PA132019 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Text] Armed men dressed as policemen have shot to death eight civilians in El Carmen, in the southern Andean region of Ayacucho, Peru. A communique of the region's counter-insurgency political-military command indicated that three of the dead were local authorities. The report added that two civil guardsmen were seized by a group of the armed organization Shining Path.

In Lima, Peruvian Interior Minister Luis Percovich said that the Armed Forces will act more vigorously and resolutely against what he described as subversive activities. In a televised speech, Percovich said the police are not prepared to face the action of the Peruvian armed groups alone.

OFFICIAL RESULTS OF ELECTIONS RELEASED

PA131226 Barquisimeto Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Official results of the 4 December presidential elections; read by the secretary of the Supreme Electoral Council at the Council Building in Caracas; all figures as heard -- live]

[Excerpt] Total valid votes: 6,632,374. The breakdown of this figure is as follows:

Jaime Lusinchi	3,780,647
Rafael Caldera	2,292,637
Teodoro Petkoff	276,273
Jose Vicente Rangel	220,207
Jorge Olavarria	32,048
Gonzalo Perez Hernandez	19,282
Andres Velasquez	5,999
Enrique Rangel Burgoin	8,719
Adolfo Alcala	1,111
Juan Luis Ibarra Riverol	1,382
Alberto Solano	1,640
Vinicio Romero	2,439

LUSINCHI ADDRESSES PEOPLE IN CARACAS

PA131227 San Cristobal Ecos del Torbes in Spanish 2249 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Speech by Venezuelan President-elect Jaime Lusinchi at Caracas Square, in Caracas, on 12 December 1983 -- live or recorded]

[Text] [Words indistinct] Venezuelan president by the Supreme Electoral Council. Before you, I want to repeat the oath that I made to be loyal to the principles that have guided my life, and to the campaign platform based on my promise of popular redemption. I reaffirm those words, and I promise you, partners and friends, to always remain loyal to all of this, to this brave and noble nation from which I come and to which I owe a debt. [applause]

This is a protocolary occasion. It would not be right for me to come here and repeat, in another speech, what I have already said, which was simply an expression of thanks to all of you for coming here to be with me at this supreme moment of my life. I also promised to remain loyal to all that I had promised, and I recalled the memory of Romulo Betancur, the great hero of the people, founder of Democratic Action. I invoke his memory this afternoon when I say: We promised to return, and here we are.

Here we are, friends. Let us set out to work together, without retaliation, without hate or rancor. We are all Venezuelans, we all have the right to live in this country. At this time I wish to call for peace and harmony, an appeal to the Venezuelan conscience, a call for creative work. I wish to express my recognition of those distinguished Venezuelans who ran against me in the elections and who recognized our victory in such a brave manner. I want to say that this victory is not mine; it is yours. It belongs to the people. [applause]

I want to ask my colleagues to continue their regular routine at work, at this time of action. The electoral battle has come to an end. Moreover, it was a long battle. Let us now get to the bottom of things, together, forgetting all superficial offenses and resentments, to strive for a better future for Venezuela in a great, noble, large-scale effort for freedom. Goodbye, my friends, and thank you very much. Thank you.

STONE, HERRERA CAMPINS MEET IN CARACAS

PA140211 Caracas Radio Rumbos Network in Spanish 2100 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Richard Stone, U.S. special envoy to Central America, met today in La Casona with Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins. After the meeting, the U.S. diplomat expressed his distrust of the Nicaraguan Government's announcements concerning withdrawal from its territory of all Cuban military advisers and the calling of general elections in 1984.

Menawhile, Jose Rodriguez Iturbe, adviser in the Venezuelan Foreign Ministry, said that Richard Stone's visit to Venezuela is part of his periodic visits to Latin America as Preisdent Reagan's representative. Rodriguez Iturbe described this visit as one of special importance. Stone's visit will coincide with Henry Kissinger's visit. Kissinger heads a high-level commission seeking a political consensus between Democrats and Republicans in the United States with regard to Central American policy.

Monge Arrives for Meetings

PA131552 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1444 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Text] Caracas, 13 Dec (DPA) -- Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge and Richard Stone, roving U.S. envoy for President Reagan, arrived in Caracas on an official visit last night.

Both arrived from Buenos Aires, where they had attended the inauguration of President Raul Alfonsin on Saturday.

Monge, who is a Social Democrat, as is Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi, said he will meet with outgoing President Luis Herrera Campins today to express his appreciation for his cooperation and solidarity with Costa Rica during his administration. He emphasized the role of Venezuela in the quadripartite Contadora Group, which seeks the pacification of strife-torn Central America. Monge will also meet with Lusinchi, whom he called an old friend.

Stone also plans to meet with Herrera Campins and Lusinchi. His visit precedes the visit tomorrow, Wednesday, of former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, who is heading a U.S. commission studying the Central American conflict.

French Envoy Blanca Arrives

PA131700 Paris AFP in Spanish 1544 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Text] Caracas, 13 Dec (AFP) -- Antoine Blanca, French roving ambassador for Latin America and the Caribbean, arrived in Caracas last night to meet with representatives of both the current and incoming administrations.

His arrival from Buenos Aires, where he attended the inauguration of President Raul Alfonsin, coincided with that of Costa Rican President Alberto Monge and Richard Stone, U.S. President Reagan's envoy for Central America.

With the presence of these personalities and the arrival today of former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger at the head of a commission studying the Central American conflict, Caracas will become the center of negotiations on the achievement of peace on the Central American isthmus.

Blanca, who met this morning with Gonzalo Garcia Bustillos, minister of the Secretariat of the Presidency, will stay in the country for 36 hours.

On Wednesday morning he will leave for Cartagena, Colombia, to be present for the signing of the cooperation treaty between the Andean Pact and the EEC.

U.S. BIPARTISAN COMMISSION ARRIVES 13 DEC

Officials Call for Dialogue

FL131810 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0245 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Text] Mexico City, 12 Dec (NOTIMEX) -- Foreign Secretariat officials said here today, a few hours before the arrival of the Bipartisan Commission on Central America headed by Henry Kissinger that the problems in Central America will be resolved through dialogue and not by fighting. Spokesmen from the Mexican Foreign Secretariat stated their government's position on this matter, which will be presented to the Kissinger commission set up by President Ronald Reagan to study possible solutions to the Central American conflict.

The spokesmen said that Mexico hopes that the Kissinger commission will reflect the need for the United States to maintain a constant and permanent dialogue with its southern neighbors, which has been lacking since the end of World War II. Since the end of the war, the United States has concentrated its international policy on other regions and has not interested itself in Latin American problems except when there is a crisis, they said.

They rejected the idea that the Bipartisan Commission's visits to Central America interfere with the meeting of the Central America Action Committee of the Latin American Economic System (SELA) which starts today in Panama. They added that in addition to looking for mechanisms for solving rebel conflicts in this region, the committee will try to find ways of strengthening the economic and commercial systems already in existence in the region.

The committee felt that recent initiatives made by the Nicaraguan Government on amnesty and possible elections are a positive contribution to the Document of Objectives which the Central American countries signed 2 months ago. They were confident that in the future the rest of the Central American countries would demonstrate their political desire to find a peaceful solution to the conflicts which exist in the area.

The same hope was expressed with respect to the United States: We look for an adjustment, a correlation between publicly stated objectives and concrete measures toward peace and dialogue.

On possible U.S. economic aid to Central America, the spokesmen from the Mexican Foreign Secretariat supported three basic points: first, that it should be directed to urgent needs and should be apportioned without preference or antagonism; second, that it be lacking in military aspects; and third, that each country be asked what its priorities are without solutions being imposed.

They also said in regard to Venezuela's change in government on 2 February, that they are confident Venezuela will maintain its current foreign policy position and reaffirm its commitment to solidarity in the search for solutions in Central America. The spokesmen reminded President-elect Jaime Lusinchi that recently he had said he would not only follow developments in the search for a solution but would also look for possible alternatives in behalf of this objective.

Finally, the spokesmen said that Mexico reaffirms and upholds the essential points it made with France in a statement issued on El Salvador 2 years ago; that is, that the insurgents and the government should hold talks in order to bring peace to the nation. The spokesmen agreed that one of the principal objectives of Richard Stone, U.S. special ambassador to Central America, is to bring about a dialogue between the two parties. They stressed that these proceedings are wholly outside the Contadora Group which is due to meet between 20 and 22 December to organize a meeting of the Central American foreign ministers next January.

Meet With Kissinger

FL132210 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2010 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Text] Mexico City, Dec 13 (NOTIMEX) -- A spokesman from the Mexican Foreign Secretariat has reported that Mexico today told Henry Kissinger that the Central American problems can only be solved in a political manner, without foreign intervention. The spokesman added: We requested that there be a correlation between the proposals and objectives of U.S. foreign policy and U.S. actions in Central America.

According to the spokesman, Henry Kissinger, chairman of the U.S. Bipartisan U.S. Commission for Central America, and Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda met for about 2 hours at the Foreign Secretariat, where they analyzed the problems of that troubled region.

He said that Foreign Secretary Sepulveda emphasized that a matter of high priority for solving Central American problems is security among the nations involved, which is hindered by the presence of foreign advisers. He added that in the long run, what is needed in order to get to the root of regional problems is the strengthening of trade, economic, and finance mechanisms with full respect for the self-determination and sovereignty of peoples, without preferences for political ideologies.

At the meeting it was insisted that the best way to arrive at a multilateral agreement is the 21-point document signed by the Central American foreign ministers 2 months ago. The document includes objectives and a statement of the political willingness to maintain dialogue. Henry Kissinger reiterated his country's support for the Contadora Group's measures for the pacification of the region, but the spokesman declined to give more details.

At 1300 local time (1900 GMT), Kissinger met with President Miguel de la Madrid after giving a press conference, and during the afternoon will meet with Secretary of Finance and Public Credit Jesus Silva Herzog.

BRIEFS

SOLIDARITY FRONT -- In order to consolidate all the solidarity efforts with the revolutionary movements of Central America, the Caribbean, and other Latin American countries currently being carried out in Mexico, some 30 political and trade union organizations on 4 December formed the National Front Against U.S. Intervention [Frente Nacional Contra la Intervencion Norteamericana]. [Summary] [Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 5 Dec 83 p 7 PA]

MEXICAN-BRAZILIAN COMPANY -- Sominter, a binational enterprise, was created today to promote commercial exchange between Mexico and Brazil. The company, which has 15 million pesos in capital, will be headquartered in Mexico City, and its partners will be Petrobras International Trade, Inc, and the Banco Mexicano Somex. [Summary] [Mexico City EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 25 Nov 83 p 3 PA]

COSTA RICA

HAVANA CITES VICE PRESIDENT ON ECONOMIC ISSUES

PA132016 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Text] In remarks to the news agency PRENSA LATINA, Alberto Fait, first vice president of Costa Rica, has indicated that the problem of the Central American countries is not ideological. The conflicts in the area, he said, are caused by the misery and terrible poverty that prevail in the region. He said that the industrialized capitalist countries will be unable to solve their unemployment problems if they do not understand that the standard of living in the rest of the world must also be raised. Alberto Fait stressed that the current world crisis has been provoked by the industrialized countries. In this regard, he said that 70 percent of world production is in the hands of just 14 percent of the population. Either we all advance together toward better horizons, or the world crisis will continue to worsen, the Costa Rican vice president added.

BRIEFS

NEW POLITICAL PARTY -- The Generalena Union [Union Generalena] has been officially approved as a political party at the national level by the director general of the Civil Registry. The party, initially founded as a cantonal party in Perez Zeledon, has listed Carlos Alberto Fernandez Vega as its president. According to the resolution approved at the party's national assembly, the organization will propose a presidential candidate for the next elections. The party's request was signed by 3,290 individuals. [Summary] [San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Dec 83 PA]

EXPORT DEFICIT -- A decrease in exports to international markets has reduced the $26.3-million trade surplus of 1982 to a $71-million deficit during the first 8 months of 1983. Coffee exports showed an 11 percent decrease, banana exports 16.2 percent, fresh meat 62 percent, and fertilizers 50.6 percent. [Summary] [San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 4 Dec 83 p 3 PA]

NEW BOLIVIAN AMBASSADOR -- Emma Navaja de Alandia yesterday presented her credentials to Acting President Alberto Fait as the new Bolivian ambassador to Costa Rica. [Summary] [San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 2 Dec 83 p 4 PA]

EL SALVADOR

BUSH COMMENTS STRESS DEATH SQUADS, HUMAN RIGHTS

Party Leaders Concur

PA131228 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Report by Raul Beltran]

[Text] Salvadoran political leaders have not reacted to the speech and statements made last night by U.S. Vice President George Bush at the president's home. Diplomatic sources and political observers have stated that the Salvadoran political leaders should express their opinions regarding Vice President Bush's statements.

Rene Fortin Magana, leader of the Democratic Action Party, and Jose Napoleon Duarte, presidential candidate for the Christian Democratic Party, agreed that George Bush's statements are true, and they stated that they share his views.

Jose Napoleon Duarte said that he agrees with Bush's statements regarding the death squads in that the law is not strongly enforced with regard to those extreme rightist groups.

Last night, before leaving for Washington, George Bush said that the Salvadoran public security forces should pursue the small groups that comprise the death squads in the same manner that they pursue the guerrillas.

Former Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte left this morning for Washington to meet with high-ranking authorities. He said that he had been requested to attend these meetings.

Statements Said 'Hypocritical'

PA131224 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Text] U.S. Vice President George Bush visited our country and, as did Thomas Pickering and Ronald Reagan, cynically and hypocritically attacked the so-called death squads, which, as Salvadorans know, are comprised of members of the repressive bodies and the Army dressed in civilan clothes.

During a dinner -- it had to be at a dinner -- Buche [derogatory name meaning crop] spoke at length about the death squads, to the extent that at one point it was impossible to tell whether he was attacking them or praising them. The truth is that for this Mr Buche, the entire problem of the so-called death squads is limited to the difficulties they might create for the Reagan administration in the U.S. Congress, in light of its efforts to continue half sustaining the dictatorship or progressing with the aggressive plans against Central America.

Buche does not care about the fact that the Army and the repressive bodies, under the guise of the death squads, have slain thousands of Salvadorans, thus plunging thousands of Salvadoran families into mourning. For Buche, this is but an occupational hazard.

We must remember that Mr U.S. Vice President George Buche was nothing less than the head of the sinister CIA for some time, a sort of death squad operating on the international level.

Buche is only concerned about the difficulties in Congress. For this reason, his remarks on the death squads were hypocritical. He said nothing about the massacres carried out by Domingo Monterrosa, Jaime Flores, Medina Garay, Blandon, Rynaldo Lopez Nuila, and all the other criminals. He said nothing about the massacres carried out by the dictatorship's Army. After all, he is only concerned about avoiding difficulties in an effort to continue supporting a genocidal Army, an Army that is synonymous with a death squad.

Human Rights 'Verbiage' Condemned

PA131223 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0100 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Text] Mr Bush has left. The warmongering Yankee vice president and the Yankee bombs, planes, and [word indistinct] continue attacking our people.

No matter how much this insolent Yankee, cohort of Ronald Reagan, has talked in our country about human rights, the truth is that the meddlesome North American presence continues violating our fatherland's sovereignty and generating a most broad and resolute anti-imperialist struggle among our people.

This warmongering gentleman issued a timid warning to the [word indistinct] death squads, but abstained from mentioning the widely recognized criminal practices of Vides Casanova's puppet Army, which receives generous advice and financial assistance from the hypocritical Reagan administration.

This imperialist government leader's empty verbiage about human rights is simply aimed at somehow cleansing the bloodstained and monstrous face of Alvaro Magana's dictatorship, loyal representative of the traitorous oligarchy. Our people are confronting a single enemy dressed in different clothing. The death squads, the puppet Army trained by the Yankees, and the [word indistinct] repressive corps are blood brothers that comprise the repressive apparatus that oppresses our people to preserve the interests of the oligarchy and the Yankee domination over our country.

Mr Bush has left. His visit did not solve, but rather aggravated, the human rights situation in our country. It has aggravated the situation because it reasserted the warmongering intentions of the Washington administration. To the relief of the local puppets, it has guaranteed unconditional criminal military and economic assistance to the dictatorship to allow it to move on with the genocide against our people.

Mr Bush was left with a sour taste in his mouth when he saw for himself the political and military advance of our heroic people, which cannot be stopped, and the rapidly growing disarray of the dictatorship the United States is stubbornly supporting. One more Yankee is leaving with the bitterness of having verified the uselessness of the weapons, money, and advisers in the face of our people's powerful and indomitable determination to achieve independence, freedom, and social justice without Yankee intervention.

Against the dictatorship and imperialist intervention, the unity of the people toward victory!

Havana Notes Ungo's View

PA131951 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Text] Salvadoran FDR President Guillermo Manuel Ungo has said in Panama City that U.S. Vice President George Bush's visit to El Salvador reveals the priority that Washington assigns its military plans. Ungo noted that high-ranking U.S. Government officials have traveled frequently to El Salvador in recent weeks, an indication of Washington's growing interference in that Central American country.

FMLN ANNOUNCES RELEASE OF NINE PRISONERS

PA131225 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Text] From the Francisco Sanchez Southeastern Front, our companeros from the southern group of the Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade have sent the following report:

On Wednesday, 7 December, during a crowded meeting at the village of San Agustin, and before international television, nine prisoners of war, who were members of the Atonal Battalion, were released.

They had been captured by members of the Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade, southern group, during clashes on the coastal highway, at the place known as La Cruzadilla de San Juan, on 16 November.

The following are the prisoners released, all belonging to the Atonal Battalion. Lieutenant Rene Mauricio Barrera Roca, and privates Manuel de Jesus Ramirez, Ricardo Pineda Franco, Leonidas Rivera Flores, Jose Primero Martinez, Jose Alberto Gomez Navarrete, Jeromimo Orellana Morales, Jorge Alberto Villalobos Rodriguez and Jose Luis Molina Saldana. These members of the elite Atonal Battalion were treated with all due consideration and respect for their physical and moral integrity.

We call on the dictatorship's soldiers to surrender from combat. This will be a worthy decision for the people and the homeland.

This military report was signed by Commander Roberto Jimenez.

RADIO VENCEREMOS VIEWS U.S. HELICOPTER OVERFLIGHT

PA130425 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Text] The following is information on the new levels of aggression reached by the Reagan administration and the pro-imperialist Honduran Government of Alvarez Martinez and Suazo Cordova.

A squadron of 10 U.S. UH-1 helicopters overflew the Honduras-El Salvador border, in Morazan Department at approximately 1200 today. These helicopters, which are part of the material used by the forces participating in the Big Pine II maneuvers, flew at high altitude, out of range of our antiaircraft units. For this reason, no clashes between the U.S. helicopters and our forces were reported. Only a few hours before the flight of the helicopter squadron, the joint command of the operation said, on Honduran television, that the information given by Radio Venceremos to the effect that the maneuvers had been transferred to the village of La Esperanza, near El Salvador, was false.

It is interesting to note that the military leaders of Big Pine II only denied the information released by Radio Venceremos several days after it had been disseminated by our station. One of the Big Pine II commanders, U.S. Colonel (John Pragan) has admitted that there are U.S. Army CH-46 helicopters in Intibuca Department, where the village of La Esperanza is located. (Pragan) added that these helicopters engage in civilian tasks by transporting construction materials.

However, both the heavy CH-46 helicopters that overflew our territory on 5 December and were repelled by our guns, and the squadron of 10 UH-1 helicopters that overflew the area on 12 December, were carrying out military missions, within the framework of the Reagan administration's aggressive plans.

Despite the assertion of Big Pine II military leaders made over Honduran television to the effect that military maneuvers have not been carried out in La Esperanza and that the CH-46 and UH-1 helicopters carry out civilian tasks, our forces are on a state of alert. We will not be taken by surprise as happened in Grenada, when U.S. imperialists said that the war fleet that was in the Caribbean was heading for the Middle East and then, only 24 hours later, cowardly attacked the small island of Grenada.

We will be vigilant, ready to fight any foreign aggression whenever it occurs.

U.S.-MADE HELICOPTERS SAID STRAFING USULUTAN

PA140216 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0100 GMT 14 Dec 83

[Text] Reagan's helicopters are strafing the civilian population in Usulutan Department. On 11 December the dictatorship sent a U.S.-made helicopter to attack the civilian population in San Agustin, Usulutan Department. The indiscrimate and cowardly attack on the village began at 0730, and for a period of 1 hour, the helicopter fired on the civilian population. This is how human rights are respected in El Salvador. This is how the U.S.-trained puppet Army shows its respect for human rights in El Salvador.

VIOLENCE REPORTED; COFFEE HARVEST HALTED

PA131920 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] Civilian sources today revealed that fighting has ended in Jucuapa and Chinameca Provinces, in Usulutan Department, and that Army troops are remaining in the area.

Harvesting activities remain suspended for the second straight week on the coffee plantations, while troops have taken permanent custody of the installations, offering full guarantees to coffee producers in the Chinameca area and near Jucuapa.

According to civilian sources, the population refuses to pick the coffee for fear of being caught in clashes between government and rebel forces.

In San Salvador Department, leftist rebels attacked the local command post at Paisnal last night, wounding two memebers of the civil defense corps. The attack lasted approximately 1 hour, according to military sources.

In San Salvador, authorities identified five persons who died violently, two of them shot and three others killed in traffic accidents. In Soyapango Province, an unidentified person was shot to death, according to local authorities. No personal identification was found on the body.

Meanwhile, military operations continued in San Vicente Department and picking activities advanced normally on the cotton plantations. Members of the rapid deployment Ramon Belloso Battalion and of the Army's telecommunications training center are engaged in counterinsurgency operations. So far, however, they have met no resistance from FMLN groups.

RADIO FARABUNDO MARTI ON UPCOMING STONE TOUR

PA132023 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0100 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Text] Once again the interventionist traveler will be touring Central America. In the next few days, Richard Stone, the spokesman for intervention and Yankee policy, will begin a flash tour of Central America and the Contadora Group countries.

As U.S. Vice President George Bush has said, the current situation is not ideal for the United States to launch CONDECA [Central American Defense Council] and U.S. troops in a regional war. Insane Ronald Reagan will once again send Richard Stone to measure the tension level of the volatile Central American situation, in order to make the necessary adjustments in aggression plans against our peoples.

FMLN SCORES REPRESSION, HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

PA091435 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0100 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Excerpt] For years, this crude reality of the oligarchy's use of death, terror, torture, and repression to silence the people's demands and protests has transcended our borders. Various international organizations have learned of and have denounced the death and repression fostered by the oligarchy and by the state with the aid of U.S. strategists.

The United Nations has learned from a report by the special representative for human rights that the dictatorship's Army and the death squads, advised by Yankees, are the chief violators of human rights in our country.

Unashamedly, Mauricio Rosales, the hypocritical ambassador of the dictatorship to the United Nations, is trying to hide the sun with one finger by ignoring the UN report while the mothers and relatives of missing persons and political prisoners themselves have charged that only during the past 3 weeks, 52 more fellow countrymen were abducted by murderous death squads and henchmen of repressive organizations. These persons are still missing.

These additional 52 fellow countrymen are to be added to the thousands of people who are missing as the result of the oligarchy's repression. This unmasks Rosales' hypocritical, loathsome stance at the United Nations. This new charge made by heroic mothers unmasks the falsehood of the Constituent Assembly's deputies, who dare not face the mothers' just demands.

The FMLN calls on all people to repudiate and to combat the Yankee imperialism's servile dictatorship and to denounce all the abuses that these murderers commit against our people, as well as to repudiate the false elections that will not solve our people's real, deep problems.

REBELS INFLICT HEAVY CASUALTIES ON ELITE FORCES

PA101322 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 10 Dec 83

[Text] The FMLN's Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade has inflicted a total of 93 casualties, both dead and wounded, on the Atonal and Cazadores Battalions and on the 3d Brigade, headquartered in San Miguel and commanded by the genocidal Colonel Domingo Monterrosa.

The dictatorship made various changes in the commands of its battalions and in the high command itself, claiming that this, along with the use of new military tactics, would yield good results in its war on our people. With this new blow, however, our revolutionary army has frustrated the so-called new tactics pursued by Vides Casanova and his U.S. advisers. Beyond this, it has dealt yet another blow to its enemy, Domingo Monterrosa, who now commands the 3d Infantry Brigade.

The dictatorship has concentrated several special battalions in Usulutan Department in an effort to defend the oligarchs' interests, but our revolutionary army, consisting of peasants and workers who are fighting for their interests, continues to advance toward certain victory.

In San Salvador, according to information supplied by the Modesto Ramirez Central Front, FMLN groups ambushed a military vehicle that was carrying troops near the Presidential Palce, by detonating a mine and attacking the vehicle with rifle fire. The enemy suffered an undetermined number of casualties as a result.

FMLN AMBUSHES ARMY TRUCK IN SAN SALVADOR

PA100414 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 10 Dec 83

[Text] We have received the following information from the Modesto Ramirez Central Front. On 7 December, as part of the political and military campaign "Yankees, Out of Grenada and Central America," members of the FMLN's [words indistinct] Cruz Commando ambushed a military truck near the Presidential Palace. They activated a mine as the truck approached. This was followed by rifle fire. The enemy suffered an unknown number of casualties. Our revolutionary greetings to the fighters of the [words indistinct] Cruz Commando who attacked the enemy's rear guard in San Salvador, inflicting more casualties. This information was sent to Radio Venceremos by Commander (Cesar Diaz), Companero (Reinaldo Bayardo), and (Misael Cruz).

HAVANA CITES FPL COMMUNIQUE ON LEADER DEATHS

PA131513 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Text] The Central Committee of the Salvadoran FMLN's People's Liberation Forces, FPL, has issued an official communinique clarifying the circumstances surrounding the death of Melida Anaya Montes and the subsequent suicide of Salvador Cayetano Carpio, who were first and second in command of that revolutionary political-military organization.

The document notes that as a result of the investigations and evaluation of these events, the FPL Revolutionary Council can report that during the last years of his life Salvador Cayetano Carpio, known as Marcial, went through a process of ideological and political deterioration that led him to serious deformations and deviations culminating in the murder of Melida Anaya Montes, Commander Ana Maria. He was the main promoter of and the person responsible for this crime.

The communique adds that Marcial developed an exaggerated sense of self-esteem that led him to think of himself as the most consistent, pure, and irreproachable revolutionary in El Salvador, as well as the rest of the region, and as the sole interpreter of the feelings of the Salvadoran proletariat and people. He enjoyed flattery and praise, and wanted to put himself and his ideas above those of the group and party organizations.

The communique states that the most deplorable aspect of Carpio's attitude was that he then turned against Melida Anaya Montes, whom he considered a rival. He even hated her, as he felt that Commander Ana Maria was overshadowing his prestige.

While the FPL leaders remained close to the masses and combatants and continued to fight side by side with them, Marcial continued to stray, surrounding himself with a group of people who saw him as a source of prestige and authority within the party. The document adds that these people paid homage to Marcial's personality. They flattered him with a degree of fanaticism that, even though it did not consume the minds and feelings of most FPL members, did affect some companeros.

The FPL document recalls that at the meetings that the FPL's Political and Central Committees held in January and February, pertinent criticisms and recommendations were made to Salvador Cayetano Carpio -- in a most fraternal fashion -- in order to help him overcome his problems. In a gesture of maturity and high party spirit, members of the committees reiterated their confidence in him by confirming him as the organization's primary responsible person.

The document noted that Marcial, however, had already lost a sense of perspective in relation to the collective interests of the party, the revolutionary forces, the working class, and the people.

The FPL communique adds that blinded by his political ambitions and his fanatic self-exaltation, Marcial ordered and planned the murder of Commander Ana Maria. When his crime was discovered, Carpio, in a final act of political cowardice, chose suicide to evade his responsibility and save his name, already tarnished by his own infamy.

The document announced that this conclusive evidence was disclosed at the FPL-FMLN Seventh Revolutionary Council, held in Chalatenango in August 1983, and that Salvador Cayetano Carpio was unanimously condemned. Nevertheless, because of the confusion, resentment, opportunism, and fanatical cult to Marcial's personality, a few former companeros have gone as far as separating from the party, and are trying to undermine the FPL's internal unity, using methods harmful to the revolution and the people, which only benefit the enemy. This group -- linked to the Salvador Cayetano Carpio Labor Movement, which recently emerged -- maintains the sectarian, anti-unitarian positions of the past, upheld by Marcial, denying the FMLN's role as vanguard and proclaiming itself the sole representative of the Salvadoran workers.

After stressing that this group's efforts and calumnies have not halted the mighty revolutionary advance, the categorical political-military victories in the struggle of the Salvadoran people, and the consolidation of the FMLN, the communique recalls that imperialism and reactionaries worldwide try to divide the peoples' vanguard organizations in order to destroy revolutionary movements.

The document adds that everyone knows that in Grenada a group of revolutionaries was recently used as an instrument by imperialism to provoke division and confrontation within the New Jewel Movement, which created conditions justifying the invasion of that Caribbean island.

In conclusion, the FPL stresses that the organization's doors are open to all those confused or deceived companeros who wish to rejoin the party, close ranks, and unify efforts to defeat the enemies of the people.

The communique also calls on the working class, the working people, and Salvadoran democratic and progressive sectors not to allow themselves to be confused by the enemy's campaign of slander and deceit or by all those who directly or indirectly play along with the enemy.

HAVANA ON PDC PROPOSAL TO CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

PA100331 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Text] The PDC, Salvadoran Christian Democratic Party, has proposed that the agrarian reform law be excluded from the new Constitution to prevent further delays and discussions and to guarantee the electoral process set by the genocidal regime in that Central American country.

The PDC stated that the articles regarding agrarian relations, which have been the cause of serious disputes in the Constituent Assembly, should be considered secondary laws and not be established in the Constitution. The Constituent Assembly approved a temporary article maintaining the effectiveness of a decree establishing regulations and special penalties for those accused of subversion, by virtue of which more than 500 Salvadorans have been arrested.

Mauricio Rosales, Salvadoran ambassador to the United Nations, said that his government will reject any investigation that the leading international organization carries out regarding the human rights situation in El Salvador. Rosales warned that the Salvadoran regime will not recognize the report represented to the United Nations by Spanish university Professor Pastor Rigdulfo, which states that the Army and repressive bodies are the source of the constant human rights violation in that Central American country.

FMLN GUERRILLAS, ARMY CLASH; RADIO SEIZED

PA131947 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Text] Salvadoran FMLN guerrilla columns have harassed the Army in several areas of La Paz and Santa Ana Departments. Near Chichontepec Volcano, the rebels occupied (La Florida), (Monte de Oro), (Santa Eduviges), and (Las Trositas), where they held meetings with the inhabitants to explain their objectives. Insurgent commandos also seized the station Radio Moderna in Santa Ana and broadcast revolutionary propaganda.

HAVANA NOTES FMLN ATTACKS IN USULUTAN DEPARTMENT

FL092228 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2104 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Text] FMLN troops today attacked the town of Santa Maria, located on the outskirts of the capital of Usulutan Department. Intense fighting also took place along the road leading to the town of Santa Elena, Usulutan Department, and in the coffee producing areas of eastern El Salvador when the Salvadoran Army attempted to keep the rebels from sabotaging the coffee crop.

The Salvadoran Air Force indiscriminately bombed these areas and others located in the Departments of San Vincente and Cabanas, using helicopters and A-37 aircraft.

San Salvador has also reported that two Salvadoran Army soldiers have been sentenced for raping an 11-year-old girl in the presence of her grandparents.

ARMY TRUCK HIT; RIGHTS INVESTIGATION ASKED

PA100318 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Text] FMLN urban commandos opened fire on an Army truck carrying troops only 5 blocks from the Presidential Palace in the Salvadoran capital; according to information supplied by Colonel Adolfo Blandon, who refused to reveal the number of casualties suffered in the rebel attack. Other official sources, however, reported that four soldiers were killed in the action, which military observers considered the most daring in recent months. The same sources pointed to the possibility of other, similar actions in the upcoming weeks in San Salvador.

Meanwhile, the Salvadoran committee of mothers of political prisioners and missing and murdered persons asked the Constituent Assembly to open an investigation into the violation of human rights in El Salvador. The request coincided with the discovery of the grave of university Professor Alfonso Nelson Escobar, kidnapped 30 November by a group of heavily armed persons in civilian clothes, who apparently killed him the same day.

Radio Venceremos, official spokesman of the FMLN, reported that the guerrilla forces had inflicted 325 casualties on the Army during November fighting. The same sources added that an additional 279 troops of the tyrant regime had laid down their arms and surrendered to the patriotic forces. Radio Venceremos added that in the past 3 years of fighting the Salvadoran guerrilla forces have captured 1,825 officers and troops, including former Defense Minister Colonel Adolfo Castillo, a major, a captain, and several lieutenants.

COMMISSION REPORTS MURDERS OF CIVILIANS

FL122012 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1908 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] The Salvadoran Human Rights Commission has reported that forces of the Salvadoran regime murdered more than 440 civilians during November.

The publication of the commission's report coincided with the approval by the UN General Assembly of a document in which the serious violations of human rights in El Salvador are condemned.

GUATEMALA

POLITICAL PARTIES REJECT ELECTORAL BILL

PA131231 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 10 Dec 83 p 8

[Text] Various political circles today expressed overwhelming rejection of the electoral bill, claiming that the bill does not reflect the spirit in which it was conceived and that it has strayed from the basic requirements of a democratic, pluralist, and broadly-based political system.

The National Renovating Party, which is led by Alejandro Maldonado Aguirre, has clearly pointed out the consequences of the fact that the bill does not respond to the requirements and mechanisms of a real process of democratization or to the renewed spirit of change that was being pursued.

The experienced leadership of the Anticommunist Unification Party, led by political leader Lionel Sisniega Otero, has pointed out that the law contains many obvious gaps that will render unattainable the goal of placing the responsibility for drafting the new Guatemalan constitution in the hands of a competent group of Guatemalans.

Asisclo Valladares, of the Committee for Populist Party, and Francisco Roger (Ishcamey), of the People's Democratic Force, also expressed concern over what they have described as discrimination. Valladares, in particular, said that the electoral law, as it stands, has fascist tendencies remaining from the past administration.

ARMY TROOPS, REBELS CLASH IN HUEHUETENANGO

PA131229 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 11 Dec 83 p 3

[Text] Combined Army and self-defense patrols have repelled a guerrilla attack in Barillas, Huehuetenango Department, very close to the Mexican border. The armed clash took place yesterday at 0330. There are no reports of casualties on either side.

Self-defense patrols discovered the insurgent group and reported promptly to the military detachment, which sent soldiers to fight the guerrillas.

Following a skirmish that lasted 10 minutes, the guerrillas withdrew from the area. Based on the bloodstains found in the area, it is believed that at least four of them were wounded.

SOLDIERS WOUNDED IN SAN MARCOS GUERRILLA AMBUSH

PA132305 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 13 Dec 83 p 2

[Text] Guatemala City, 12 Dec -- Forty soldiers who were taking part in a sports event have been wounded -- some of them seriously -- in an ambush laid by leftist guerrillas in a small town in northern Guatemala, very close to the Mexican border. Initial reports received in Guatemala City tonight are confusing, and the respective Army press offices will not give concrete information until tomorrow.

Colonel Rodolfo Lobos Zamora, acting head of state, was informed about these development at 1800, and ordered the medical personnel of the Military Hospital to make preparations to receive the wounded. However, darkness has prevented the Guatemalan Air Force from sending aircraft to rescue and airlift the wounded soldiers.

According to the scant information obtained by EL GRAFICO, the troops of a military detachment located very close to the border scheduled a 5-km race as part of the training of the military personnel. It was learned that the soldiers were wearing tennis shoes, shorts, and T-shirts -- the appropriate dress for this activity --and that they were unprotected when they left the detachment. According to the reports, the race had just started when three Claymore mines and other devices exploded, wounding the soldiers as they passed by.

The incident apparently took place in the mountainous area of Sibila, in San Marcos. The wounded soldiers reportedly belong to the military base at Retalhuleu. According to the report, several of them are in serious condition, suffering frommultiple wounds.

HAVANA REPORTS GUERRILLA ATTACKS ON POLICE POSTS

PA091755 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Text] According to official reports, one policeman died and six others were wounded in several guerrilla attacks on five control posts on the outskirts of Guatemala City. According to reports, the Revolutionary Organization of the People in Arms, ORPA, claimed credit for these attacks in telephone calls to news agencies. ORPA is a member of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity [URNG]. The attacks took place when thousands of firecrackers and other fireworks were exploded over Guatemala City in the traditional "burn-the-devil" celebration.

According to other reports, Guatemalan Colonel Rodolfo Lobo Zamora has said that the United States has renewed the sale of arms and other material to his country. This material includes $2 million worth of spare parts for the helicopter fleet. Helicopters represent an important weapon in the counterinsurgency strategy being deployed by General Oscar Humberto Mejia Victores, who is on a tour to Brazil and Argentina.

In 1977, former U.S. President James Carter suspended U.S. military aid to the Guatemalan military regime because of human rights violations in that country. Many organizations have presented reports at national and international forums on human rights violations committed by the Guatemalan regime's military forces.

NICARAGUA

ORTEGA COMMENTS ON VISIT TO ARGENTINA

Report on News Conference

PA131717 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2322 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Report by Ariel Delgado on news conference held by Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Nicaraguan Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, at the Libertador Hotel in Buenos Aires on 12 December; questioners not identified -- passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Excerpts] [Delgado] This is Ariel Delgado, correspondent of La Voz de Nicaragua, from Buenos Aires. Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega has held a news conference in one of the conference rooms of the Libertador Hotel, where the Nicaraguan delegation is staying. The interest of Argentine and foreign journalists in Commander Ortega's statements was shown by the fact that 140 journalists were present.

[Question] "Do you think the United States is going to invade Nicaragua?"

[Ortega] "Well, I am not the one saying this. U.S. leaders are the ones saying it. From the U.S. President to the defense secretary and under secretary, they are constantly saying that the option of military intervention in Central America, particularly in Nicaragua, is not being ruled out. This is accompanied by a deployment of forces around Nicaragua. There is a deployment of U.S. military forces, soldiers, warships, and planes that fly over our territory daily, and there are constant attacks from Honduran border areas against Nicaragua and its population. The terrorist attacks are carried out by Somozist Guardsmen and are directed by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency."

[Question indistinct]

[Ortega] "The newswoman asked why a meeting was not held between us and Vice President Bush. We must state that Nicaragua has always been very willing to hold a dialogue with the U.S. Government and its representatives. We thought this democratic triumph in Argentina opened the possibility of a meeting. It was not held. We hope the policy of dialogue will become stronger and that it will be achieved [words indistinct]."

[Delgado] One of the newsmen asked Commander Ortega about his meeting with Argentine President Raul Alfonsin and what Alfonsin's position was on Central America.

[Ortega] "We discussed this topic at length. We briefed President Alfonsin on the Central American problems, Nicaragua's peace initiatives, and Contadora's efforts. (?He) has extensive knowledge of these problems. We can state that we found that President Alfonsin is very concerned about [words indistinct], of course, as a Latin American he wants to help the peace efforts in Central America."

[Delgado] A newsman now asked what foreign aid Nicaragua would request in case of an invasion.

[Ortega] "It must be clear that the defense of a nation, in this case Nicaragua and its sovereignty, rests essentially on the Nicaraguans. The military defense, the physical defense of territorial integrity, rests on the Nicaraguans. [Words indistinct] need international support to prevent a U.S. military intervention. That is why the struggle is not to see what we can do in the face of a hypothetical invasion that might be carried out, but to see what we can do to prevent it, because we Nicaraguans are already capable of facing an intervention if it takes place."

[Delgado] The Argentine newsmen asked Commander Ortega about the topics discussed with the Spanish prime minister and whether they spoke about bilateral cooperation.

[Ortega] "We discussed the obligatory topic of Central America and the peace efforts being undertaken there. We also discussed the efforts that must be carried out to strengthen a dialogue."

[Question indistinct]

[Ortega] "There is great cooperation from Spain. There is good cooperation from Spain. We did not specifically talk about this. We limited ourselves to political topics."

[Delgado] In asking his question, which was quite unintelligible, a reporter asserted that the pretext the United States would use to justify intervention in Nicaragua is the Soviet intervention on that country, and he asks Commander Ortega if he can confirm that there is Soviet intervention in Nicaragua.

[Ortega] "Nicaragua was first invaded by the United States in 1856. Later, in 1909, the United States imposed a liberal government in Nicaragua. In 1912, they landed troops in Nicaragua and kept them there until 1926; they then withdrew them (?for a few months), and then brought them back until 1933. [passage indistinct] The United States intervened in Nicaragua even before the USSR existed. The United States intervened in Nicaragua before the victory of the October Revolution, and if we go back into Latin American history, we will find similar situations [words indistinct]. [applause] There is no Soviet intervention in our country; there is a nationalistic revolution that responds to the common objectives of the Latin American peoples, to the Nonaligned Movement, and to its own defense, with the support of the Nicaraguan people."

[Delgado] Another Argentine reporter, noting that Washington supports its decision to apply pressure to Nicaragua with the claim that the revolution has deviated from its principles, asked if that were true.

[Ortega] "Yes, the revolution has deviated from Washington's principles."

[Delgado] Commander Daniel Ortega Saavedra was asked next if he considers it necessary that some new kind of Latin American defense treaty be created.

[Ortega] "Rather than thinking about regional military organizations, the Latin American peoples should direct their struggle toward [passage indistinct]. The Latin American integration organizations must work for peace, seeking to solve the serious economic problems that affect their member nations, the unjust north-south relationship, the foreign debt that burdens all of us, and other common problems that should lead us to an exchange seeking integration, while avoiding military solutions at all cost."

[Delgado] A U.S. reporter asked Commander Ortega, after first explaining that the U.S. Government has clearly stated that the Nicaraguan (?proposal) has no credibility, what he thinks could convince the North Americans that Nicaragua is seeking serious dialogue and negotiations.

[Ortega] "We had the opportunity to speak briefly with Mr Bush either at the Presidential Palace or the Foreign Ministry, I don't quite remember at the moment. As for the U.S. lack of confidence in Nicaragua's internal affairs, we believe that the Nicaraguans have the sovereign right to make their own choices. The United States has a clearly interventionist policy. Initially they claimed that the problem was the weapons given by Nicaragua to El Salvador; now they say that they do not believe that Nicaragua will establish a democratic regime. I would like to ask the United States what they did to promote democracy in Nicaragua before 1979?"

[Delgado] The question now is whether there is any important statement to be made before the Contadora Group meeting scheduled to be held in Panama.

[Ortega] "Nicaragua has already said everything necessary, in dignity, and with the proper gravity and responsibility."

[Delgado] He was asked next if there is any chance that the Latin American nations can arrive at bilateral and multilateral agreements.

[Ortega] "We have specific problems in Latin America that seriously affect our countries and for which we are largely responsible. The Latin American countries, often immersed in their own domestic problems, must design policies to deal with the problems afflicting us all. As for the exchange situation, there are both manufactured and semi-manufactured products in Latin America that can be traded, and the various Central American states could engage in complementary use of their resources. Of course, there is a fundamental situation that has somehow prompted the crisis in the CACM, which is a market involving very small countries. One might ask why that market has deteriorated. The answer involves the structure of international economic relations, which makes it impossible to overcome trade policies and to place the burden of north-south relations and the burden [words indistinct] transnational companies [words indistinct] the various Central American countries chances of development and their trade prospects."

[Delgado] Newsman asked: Commander Ortega, you have adopted a plan to hold elections. Do you seek to strengthen Nicaragua's situation in the face of external aggression?

[Ortega] "We have spoken of elections. Since 1977 we have spoken of elections. [Words indistinct] elections in 1985. We have confirmed this in December. What is the United States saying? That [words indistinct] even if we were to (?hold) those elections tomorrow, the North Americans would question those elections."

[Question indistinct]

[Ortega] [passage indistinct] "(?We are not) going to hold elections whenever the United States wants, or to curry favor with the United States, but [words indistinct] the Nicaraguan people. We are trying to have orderly elections that [words indistinct] the U.S. is threatening us, that it could attack us [words indistinct]."

[Delgado] The same newsman asked: Who would win the elections?

[Ortega] "We are completely sure that whenever elections are held the Nicaraguan people, through the Sandinist Front, will win."

[Question indistinct]

[Ortega] "Just the fact that [words indistinct] strengthens the relations among the Latin American peoples. We are sure that the relations between the Nicaraguan and Argentine peoples are going to be closer with this democratic government."

[Delgado] A journalist asked if there is press freedom in Nicaragua or if there are restrictions.

[Ortega] "I can state that in Nicaragua there is press freedom. We have had to adopt restrictions on news media [words indistinct] which have to do with defense. [Passage indistinct] groups that in the past had the possibility of having their [word indistinct] continue to have them, but that those who in the past did not have access to the news media, the workers and the peasants, have access to the news media. This is an (?essential) achievement in press freedom in Nicaragua."

[Delgado] Commander Ortega was asked about the results of the U.S. position of involving other governments in support for the counterrevolutionary groups.

[Ortega] "We can state that as far as we know, the United States [words indistinct], but those efforts have failed. [Words indistinct] and have moved some agents that the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency has in different Latin American countries, independent of their nationality, position, and function, and have concentrated them in Honduran territory [words indistinct] sabotage and terrorist actions against the Nicaraguan people and to train the Somozist Guardsmen for these types of actions."

[Delgado] Another newsman asked Commander Ortega to refer to the amnesty decree.

[Ortega] "Of course, the amnesty that was recently issued through a decree is very broad, and mechanisms have been established so that all those who want to benefit from it can do so."

Managua Press Conference

PA140254 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2235 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Press conference held by Daniel Ortega Saavedra, coordinator of the Nicaraguan Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, at the General Augusto Cesar Sandino Airport in Managua on his return from Argentina; live -- broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Ortega] ...the activities that I engaged in while in Buenos Aires on the occasoccasion of the inauguration of new Argentine President Raul Alfonsin, and also on my visit to Ecuador, where I met with President Osvaldo Hurtado. A joint communique was issued: it has already been disseminated in Managua. I wish to tell the Nicaraguan people that I am happy to have returned to the homeland. It was a rewarding experience to be in Buenos Aires and feel the solidarity of the Argentine people, a sincere solidarity with the Nicaraguan people. The Nicaraguan people have achieved that solidarity through work, effort, and organization, and also through the people's awareness. During my stay in Buenos Aires, the greetings addressed to Nicaragua by the Argentine people were intended for border guards, militiamen, peasants, workers, and those who are in the revolution's foremost defense lines, in both the military and economic fields in our homeland. During my stay in Buenos Aires, I met with Argentine President Raul Alfonsin, Colombian President Belisario Betancur, French Prime Minister Pierre Mauroy, Bolivian President Hernan Siles Zuazo, Spanish President Felipe Gonzalez, Peruvian President Fernando Belaunde Terry, Ecuadoran President Osvaldo Hurtado, Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge, Guatemalan President Oscar Mejia Victores, Portugese Prime Minister Mario Soares, Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi, Cuban Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, Panamanian Vice President Carlos Ozores, former Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez, Dominican leader Jose Francisco Pena Gomez, Chilean leader Anselmo Sule, Gabriel Valdes of Chile, and Uruguayan leader Wilson Ferreira, among other personalities.

I also had the opportunity to talk with other personalities, whose names I cannot remember at this time: leaders of the Radical Party, of the Justicialist Party, of the youth groups of those parties, and of the Intransigent Party. I talked with Oscar (Arendez), with groups for solidarity with the Nicaraguan people, and with Argentine businessmen, with whom I met last night. Among these businessmen was the president of the Mercedes Benz company, the well-known Juan Manuel Fangio. We also had the very moving experience of meeting with Perez Esquivel, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, and with the mothers of the Plaza de Mayo, who are well-known throughout the world.

We can say that this meeting with all these personalities, within the framework of the democratic opening in Latin America, was made possible by the struggle of the Argentine people, who won a very important victory that strengthens the struggle for democracy in Latin America, and thus also strengthens the struggle that the Nicaraguan people are waging for peace and democracy.

We must also note that the Central American area was a topic of great interest in Buenos Aires. In interviewing these personalities, the newsmen always referred to Central America, and all the personalities that we have mentioned were unanimous in maintaining a position of rejection of interventionist policies, and demanded dialogue and political solutions to the problems experienced by the Central American region.

Another personality that we encountered was U.S. Vice President George Bush, whom we greeted briefly during one of the activities. As we said, we also had the opportunity to talk with other youth, religious, and solidarity groups on Argentina.

In commenting on our visit to Ecuador, we wish to highlight the great solidarity that we noted among the Ecuadoran people during our meetings with President Osvaldo Hurtado and Vice President Leon Roldos, as well as with the chairman of the Ecuadoran Chamber of Representatives and a large group of Ecuadoran legislators, with solidarity groups, and with the prominent continental artist Osvaldo Guayasamin, who has also waged a veritable battle on Nicaragua's behalf from Ecuador. In Ecuador, as well as in Buenos Aires and in Peru, one feels solidarity with an affection for the Nicaraguan people. It is really impressive to see the great solidarity that the Nicaraguan people have been able to generate on this continent with their sacrifice and heroism.

[(Faquinvar)] (Enzio Faquinvar) of LA VANGUARDIA of Barcelona, Spain. In your meeting with Felipe Gonzalez, what did the Spanish prime minister have to say about the recent decrees issued by the Government Junta? Also, what is the status of relations between the Spanish Government, the Socialist International, and the Sandinist government?

[Ortega] I can say that relations between Spain and Nicaragua are good. I had the opportunity to visit the Spanish Embassy in Buenos Aires, together with several heads of state who had been invited there by Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez. After the dinner to which we had been invited, the two of us talked, and I found that Prime Minister Gonzalez recognized the efforts that Nicaragua has made within the Contadora framework, the initiative that it presented to achieve peace in the Central American region. We also found that he greatly supported the measures that Nicaragua has been making domestically. For example, Nicaragua had formally announced electoral measures in 1980, and it is now fulfilling the pledges it made then.

[Talavera] Maria Luisa Talavera of the newspaper BARRICADA. In your meetings with the presidents of the Central American area, did they offer any specific proposals for finding peace in the region?

[Ortega] I believe that the important thing was the fact of the meeting. This was the most important, since we were establishing direct communication, which we have not had among the Central Americans for a very long time. We believe that if Central Americas are experiencing a problem in the region, then it is an elementary fact that we Central Americans should at least communicate and hold talks to make consistent efforts that will help us find a political solution to the problem that have emerged. Therefore, this has been a demonstration of good faith on the part of the Central American government. We have talked; we have conversed.

[Lagos] My name is (Franny Lagos). I am an independent reporter. I have one or two questions, and I will try to make them brief. First, I would like to know how you felt in Argentina, considering that only a year or a year and a half ago Argentine military personnel were training the Contras to carry out attacks against Nicaragua. Second, I would like to know how all the other countries reacted to the measures that were taken in Nicaragua under the recent decrees.

[Ortega] It is necessary to say that we have been very clear in pointing out that the U.S. intelligence agency was the one that called in its agents of various nationalities and professions. It has been summoning them for some time, ever since it began its operations against Nicaragua. They called their agents and stationed them in Honduran territory. Since then, these agents of various nationalities have been conducting terrorist actions and training the Somozist Guardsmen.

On the other hand, we feel that in Buenos Aires there was true happiness, a climate of festivity on the part of all the people. Solidarity and affection were extended to the Nicaraguan delegation from all sides when the members spoke. This was so true that it is an indication that, despite the former situation, there was a great potential solidarity. There was great receptiveness toward and interest in Nicaragua. The new situation prevailing in Argentina is being fully manifested.

As far as the proposal, the initiative, that Nicaragua presented within the Contadora framework, we have said that there is unanimous support for it on the part of the personalities with whom we have spoken. There is a call and appeal for dialogue on the basis of these measures. It is important for this dialogue to truly advance, and in this area, the United States has an important role to play in seeing that this dialogue progresses.

CONTRAS TURN THEMSELVES OVER TO SANDINISTS

PA132312 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Text] More than 100 men who had been deceived by counterrevolutionaries have turned themselves over to the revolutionary authorities in Region I, Commander of the Revolution Victor Tirado Lopez reported yesterday.

Tirado Lopez, who visited the peasant militias training center in San Lucas, Madriz Department, added that it is expected that others will take the same determined step, wherever they are.

Those who turned themselves over said they had been deceived by the Contras and had been taken to Honduras, where they encountered serious difficulties, including inhumane treatment by former Somozist Guards.

These men will likely be officially released during a public ceremony scheduled to take place in Esteli today.

TRIBUNAL SENTENCES 8 COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES

PA131230 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Text] A total of eight counterrevolutionaries from Rio San Juan were sentenced by an Anti-Somozist people's tribunal to serve prison terms of 7 or 12 years for counterrevolutionary activities. The counterrevolutionaries Richard Antonio Bucardo, Pedro Joaquin Castillo, Jose Antonio Garcia, Luis Enrique Martinez, and Jose Domingo Rivas were sentenced to 12 years, and Isidro Perez, Tomas Gonzalez, and Juan Benito Sanchez to 7 years. They were all members of the Sandino Revolutionary Front, and were captured last May by the Sandinist People's Army.

UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE VIEWS AMNESTY DECREE

PA132236 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Favorable conditions exist for many Nicaraguans, who are out of their country and engaged in activities against public order, to be able to return to the country, said Jose Maria (Mendiluce), representative in Nicaragua of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, UNHCR.

(Mendiluce) added that before the issuance of the Government Junta decree granting amnesty to the Miskitos and all Nicaraguans out of the country and engaged in criminal activities, UNHCR was already negotiating permission for the return of some Nicaraguans. He noted, however, that after the promulgation of the decree, his office has not received any more requests. (Mendiluce) offered the following statement to this station:

[Begin recording] [(Mendiluce)] For the UNHCR, as a specialized UN agency dealing with the protection of refugees, the decree issued by the Government Junta granting amnesty to the Miskitos and other Nicaraguan citizens involved in illegal activities during the past 3 years has been received as very good news. We must congratulate the Nicaraguan Government for this decision. The decree should yield practical results to the extent that it facilitates the return of thousands of Nicaraguans who, for various reasons, had to leave the country. It is still too early too determine the practical effects of the measure, although we can say that it has created the conditions for a massive return.

[Unidentified reporter] Has your local office received any requests for the repatriation of Nicaraguans currently abroad?

[(Mendiluce)] Directly as result of the decree, not yet; but we believe it is too early for the news to have reached all Nicaraguan refugees abroad. [end recording]

BRIEFS

OPPOSITION DELEGATION TO FRANCE -- A delegation of representatives from the Nicaraguan Democratic Coordinating Board arrived in Paris today for a 2-day visit, during which they will meet with center and rightist political leaders. The delegation includes (Enrique Remirez), executive secretary of the so-called Democratic Coordinating Board; (Antonio Neiva), president of COSEP [Higher Council of Private Enterprise], Agustin Jarquin, president of the Social Christian Party; Luis Leiva, secretary general of the Social Democratic Party; and Mario Oviedo Reyes, secretary general of the Constitutionalist Liberal Movement. [Excerpt] [Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 6 Dec 83 PA]

VICE PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ CITED ON TIES WITH U.S.

PM131355 Venice L'UNITA in Italian 9 Dec 83 pp 1, 20

[Interview with Cuban Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez by Giorgio Oldrini in Havana; date not given]

[Excerpt] Havana -- Question: In his speech at the funeral of the Cubans killed in Grenada, President Fidel Castro painted a pessimistic picture of the future of relations with the United States and of the possibility of averting a war. Following the invasion of Grenada, does the Cuban Government consider a dialogue with the Reagan administration impossible?

Answer: Fidel Castro was not pessimistic, but realistic in his assessment of the significance of Reagan's policy, both regional and global. The word "impossible" must never be used in politics, but we do believe that there is virtually no possibility of a fruitful dialogue on bilateral U.S.-Cuban relations in this initial term of the Reagan administration. Obviously it is not yet possible to define what will happen in a possible second term, if Reagan runs again and is reelected. With the current U.S. President, there is always the danger of the predominance of ideology. This ideological element, the characteristic of an anticommunist crusade, exists in an even more specific form in regional policy in Central America and the Caribbean and in relations with Cuba. We believe that international political circumstances will force him to conduct a global dialogue, since international pressure is growing stronger every day, and I believe that even the U.S. people will not remain insensitive to the nuclear threat. I have seen the film "The Day After," and I believe that it will inevitably have a strong impact on the U.S. people. Sooner or later Reagan will be forced to negotiate, and if he does not do so, the world will be blown apart.

Question: Could this pressure even lead to negotiations on Central America?

Answer: We do not rule out the possibility that he will be forced to negotiate even in Central America. I repeat: forced. Currently there is no willingness to negotiate on the parts of either Reagan or of his chief aides such as Weinberger, Kirkpatrick, Clark, Meese, and even Shultz. However, the mediation initiative of the so-called "Contadora Group" is still continuing and seems likely to extend its base of support.

Question: Do you believe that "Contadora" could succeed?

Answer: I believe that it is an alternative that must not be abandoned, because otherwise we could only envisage a U.S. invasion of Central America, and that would be very dangerous not only for Central America, but for the United States as well. The entire region would burst into flames. Thus, we regard "Contadora" as an alternative that must not be abandoned. In its proposals there are elements of realism, and we believe that there are chances of a negotiated solution leading to a regional settlement in which all sides will shoulder their responsibilities. When I talk about all sides, I am referring not only to the Latin American countries, but also and above all, to the United States. There are chances of reaching a negotiated agreement, because what Nicaragua is asking for and what the Salvadoran guerrillas want is negotiations.

Question: The weak point in the "Contadora" proposals seems to be the one referring to El Salvador, which does not broach the country's domestic problem.

Answer: Some of the protagonists of "Contadora" have told us that they would like to resolve the Nicaragua-Honduras problem as the prelude to broaching the Salvadoran problem. We do not have the same viewpoint; we believe that this is a package to be simultaneously resolved. Nicaragua can in no way reach accords that could politically signify an abandonment of its moral commitments to the Salvadoran people. Once the Salvadoran problem has been resolved, it will be much easier to resolve the entire Central American problem. This is being discussed. However, I repeat, we believe that "Contadora" can grow stronger every day.

Question: Until a few months ago, some European countries were contributing to the quest for a peaceful agreement in Central America. For some time one has had the impression that they have been backing off. Do you share this impression?

Answer: Perhaps the governments, but not the political forces. It is enough to consider the very clear stance adopted by the Socialist International last week. Perhaps the European governments are now less active because problems have become so complicated in Europe, which is now experiencing the terrible dilemma of nuclear war versus an accord on the missiles. We believe that Europe can play a very important role. The Central American problem is a Latin American and North American problem, a regional problem, but that does not mean that it does not simultaneously have international repercussions. The regionalization of problems is long over. This is why we are pressing the Europeans not to abandon their role. Of course, as events in Grenada confirmed, Reagan is not very concerned with what his allies and the European public think, but there is an indirect way of exerting influence. Reagan aspires to reelection, and this is why he is very concerned about U.S. public opinion. He has succeeded in paralyzing internal opposition, both the Democratic Party and a major sector of the press, by imposing the idea that it is treason to challenge his policy, because whoever is against Reagan is against U.S. security. The stances adopted by the Latin American public and governments, together with those of the popular and democratic forces of European governments, and those of certain allies such as the Japanese, can influence U.S. public opinion and thus influence Reagan's policy. Thus, both direct and indirect pressure can be put on the U.S. President.

Question: What are Cuba's conditions for a possible dialogue with the United States?

Answer: We set no conditions, but we have adopted a clear stance, which seems reasonable to us. We have said that for there to be a fruitful dialogue on the bilateral problems between Cuba and the United States, there must be a U.S. willingness to end the blockade, since you cannot negotiate with a Damoclean sword hanging over your head, and the blockade is precisely a threat, an explicit form of inequality. These are also problems that are part of the negotiation process, such as the Guantanamo military base, which the United States illegally occupies in the southeastern part of Cuba. However, there are also certain things that the United States must know that we will not negotiate -- those concerning the sovereignty of third countries, for instance, the presence of Cuban troops in Angola and Ethiopia, or of military advisers (a few, Fidel said about 200) in Nicaragua. We will discuss our concerns on bilateral relations with the United States, which we believe can be organized not to reach a close friendship between the U.S. imperialists and socialist Cuba, but to establish good-neighborly relations.

The United States says that if we want good relations with it we must break off relations with the USSR. We believe, however, that we can be good friends with the USSR and good neighbors with the United States. This is normal in international relations; it is the only way in which the world can be cohabitable. If Reagan believes that socialists and capitalists cannot coexist on this earth, the only solution is nuclear war, but it is not an acceptable solution for mankind. to sum up: We have no hope that it will be possible to reach bilateral negotiations in the short term, but we are willing to discuss our relations when the time comes with the same steadfastness with which we are ready to deal with a U.S. invasion if, by some mischance, Reagan were to lose his head. However, there is another situation in which Cuba would negotiate. Certain members of "Contadora" have mentioned Cuban and U.S. participation in a certain phase of the negotiations on Central America. For this purpose there is obviously no need to discuss the economic blockade or Guantanamo. These are negotiations of a different nature.

Question: At the moment there is a great deal of talk about the Cubans' withdrawal from Nicaragua.

Answer: They are 2,000 teachers coming home because the school year has ended. Some people have tried to give the impression of a Cuban withdrawal from Nicaragua, and some have even talked about a military withdrawal. They were the ones who maintained that we had 2,000 troops there and who are now saying that we have withdrawn 2,000 troops. In fact, the people there were teachers, and after the vacation, in 3 months' time, there will be additional talks with the Nicaraguans, and it will be decided whether we will send back the same number of teachers, or more or fewer. But this return has nothing to do with any "Contadora" agreements, which have not yet been specified and which in any case will not concern teachers, technicians, or construction workers -- only troops.

Question: There is talk of a withdrawal of the contingent of Cuban troops from Ethiopia, by agreement with the Addis Ababa government. Is it true?

Answer: There is no withdrawal at the moment. It is not the first time that troops have left Ethiopia, that the number of troops in Ethiopia has been reduced. There could be conversations in the future, but at present I am not in a position to answer this question.

Question: Has Cuba any particular proposals for a solution to the Central American crisis?

Answer: We cannot have any particular solutions for a problem that is not ours. In general we support the "Contadora" proposals, though we do not like all 21. But viewed as a whole, they are a starting point for fruitful negotiations. We have seen the proposals formulated and put forward by the Nicaraguan comrades, and they, too, seem to us a starting point for negotiations. We are willing to honor commitments stemming from future agreements. Fidel Castro has been asked whether we are willing to withdraw our military advisers from Nicaragua. We are not willing to withdraw them unless the Nicaraguans are willing to accept it. In that case we are willing to do so. We are in favor of negotiations in which all sides have adequate guarantees. We must work to find formulas acceptable to all sides, rational formulas that will give nobody advantages over the others and will give guarantees to all. For instance, the new impetus being given to the Central American Defense Council (CONDECA, a military pact formed by Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador, under U.S. supervision -- L'UNITA editor's note), which is already beginning to be used as a tool for exerting pressure on Nicaragua, alters the military outlook in Central America and will have to be examined in such negotiations.

Be that as it may, the important thing is to begin negotiating, to alleviate the tension that is now leading to an almost inevitable conflict, not forgetting that El Salvador is the focal point of any Central American solution, and that Cuba is willing to shoulder its responsibilities as long as the United States and all the rest are willing to do the same.

BRITISH PLEDGE AID FOR NEW GRENADIAN POLICE FORCE

PA131356 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 12 Dec 83

["Our America" commentary]

[Excerpts] The British newspaper DAILY TELEGRAPH has reported that the British Government has pledged to create a new police force in Grenada. This plan will make up almost all the aid that the British Government has promised to give Grenada.

The plan calls for nothing less than the opening of 5 of the 12 police stations that were closed down by the revolutionary government headed by Maurice Bishop, and the recruiting of some 500 men to organize the new police force.

The DAILY TELEGRAPH reported that the new police force that the United Kingdom has pledged to create in Grenada will also have paramilitary bodies that will be trained by officers from neighboring islands adept at such activities. The task has been assigned to (Michael Boggs), British police adviser for the Caribbean, who will direct the training and make sure the new police force will have the necessary equipment to be rapidly implemented in Grenada.

The British and U.S. neocolonialist interests are too obvious for any misunderstanding. The alliance of imperialist interests against our America was revealed during the Malvinas war. A few weeks were all that the United Kingdom needed to forget the U.S. insult of not advising the British prior to the military invasion of Grenada.

It is well known that the United States is planning to build a military base in Grenada. The analogy is clear: In the Malvinas, the aggressor was Great Britain, which is building a powerful military base in that territory, which belongs to Argentina. A delegation of British military advisers is already in Grenada in order to cooperate in the U.S. plan to create an important military base on that small island, according to the DAILY TELEGRAPH.

Another British newspaper, THE GUARDIAN, mentioning official sources, has said that Great Britain is preparing to participate, together with the United States, in so-called operations to safeguard peace. It is unnecessary to explain what sort of peace they are talking about.

According to very recent information, U.S. troops continue to carry out roundups and arrests in Grenada. An interrogation center has even been created where all citizens suspected by the Yankee invaders of sympathizing with the progressive forces are taken. Hundreds of political prisoners remain in prisons and concentration camps created by the United States in Grenada, and the population continues to be the object of brutal terror.

PALESTINIAN RIGHTS REASSERTED AT UN SESSION

FL131845 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Text] On the situation in the Middle East, Cuba has reasserted at the United Nations that there will not be peace in that region until the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to return home and reestablish their own state is recognized.

In a speech at the UN General Assembly on the topic, Cuban Ambassador Raul Roa Kouri noted that in order to attain that goal it will be necessary that all Zionist and U.S. forces withdraw unconditionally from the area. Likewise, Roa Kouri called on the international community to remain vigilant in the face of the bellicose U.S. policy, and noted that the adventures against Syria and the Lebanese patriots forecast new threats to peace and international security.

FIDEL CASTRO MEETS WITH PDRY, AFGHAN OFFICIALS

FL131616 Havana Domestic Servicd in Spanish 1145 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Text] Yesterday afternoon Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of Cuba's Communist Party, held fraternal and friendly talks with 'Abd al-Ghani 'Abd al-Qadir, member of the Political Bureau and secretary for foreign relations of the Yemen Socialist Party.

Fidel also met with (Mohammad Bargalai), member of the Political Bureau and Secretariat of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Central Committee, who is visiting Cuba at the invitation of the party's Central Committee.

SOVIET PROCURATOR GENERAL ARRIVES FOR VISIT

FL130236 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Text] Soviet Procurator General Dr Aleksandr M. Rekunkov has arrived in our country on an official and friendly visit at the head of a high-ranking delegation. Rekunkov, a member of the CPSU Central Committee and a deputy to the Supreme Soviet, was received at Jose Marti International Airport by Cuban Attorney General Idalberto L. de Guevara Quintana and Soviet Ambassador to Cuba Konstantin Katushev, along with other officials of the Cuban Attorney General's Office and the Soviet Embassy.

During their stay in our country, the visitors will hold meetings with officials of organizations that deal with the administration of justice and with government and party leaders.

RODRIGUEZ, DELEGATION RETURN FROM ARGENTINA

FL140236 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 14 Dec 83

[Excerpts] The delegation led by Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of the Politburo of the Central Committee, has returned to our country from Buenos Aires. Vice Minister of Foreign Trade Amadeo Blanco will remain in Buenos Aires to analyze the expansion of trade between our two countries, which is planned for 1984.

VIETNAMESE DELEGATION ARRIVES FOR TALKS

FL131724 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1538 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Text] Tran Ohynh, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, arrived today heading a delegation which will participate in the Seventh Cuba-Vietnam Intergovernmental Meeting for Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation.

Welcoming the delegation at the Jose Marti International Airport was Joel Domenech, member of the party Central Committee and vice president of Cuba's Council of Ministers, who heads the Cuban side of the talks.

BRAVO MEETS WITH DANISH COMMUNIST LEADER

FL131849 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Text] Flavio Bravo, member of the Central Committee and president of the National Assembly of the People's Government, today met with Jorgen Jensen, secretary general of the Danish Communist Party. The meeting took place at the main offices of the National Assembly in Miramar, city of Havana.

Flavio Bravo gave the visitors a detailed explanation about the organization of the National Assembly of the People's Government, the method that is used for the election of deputies, the functioning of the provincial and municipal assemblies, and the work of the delegates of the electoral districts, who comply with the mandate of the masses in resolving local problems.

CEMA CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE PRESIDENTS SESSION OPENS

FL131747 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Text] Cuban Foreign Trade minister Ricardo Cabrizas yesterday declared the 13th conference of Chambers of Commerce presidents of CEMA member-countries in session at the Palace of Conventions in this capital.

In his opening remarks at the forum, which will end next Thursday, Cabrizas expressed Cuba's satisfaction at welcoming these officials for a second time, and recalled the fruitful results of the first meeting held in this capital in 1974. He referred to the international situation and stressed the need for the socialist community to guarantee an increasingly more effective and closely-knit integration to face up to the world economic crisis. He noted the gains made by our country's economic development in which the relations with the Soviet Union and other socialist countries play a most important role.

CDB ANNOUNCES PROJECT LOANS, TECHNICAL GRANTS

FL132300 Bridgetown CANA in English 2223 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Dec 13 (CANA) -- The Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) today announced approval of 20 million dollars (U.S.) in project loans and technical grants which it said would help speed the region's development process.

The countries which are to benefit most are Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Jamaica, and St Lucia. The new approvals have increased total approved CDB financing to 455.3 million dollars net of cancellations since the bank began operations in 1970.

The seven project loans and four technical assistance grants were announced by the bank following the 84th meeting of its board of directors here yesterday under the chairmanship of President Williams Demas.

Two of the projects for which financing was approved -- one in Antigua and Barbuda and the other in Jamaica -- are for the private sector.

Most of the projects will bring new opportunities to small farmers, fishermen, small businessmen, and aspiring homeowners in the lower and lower-middle income groups.

During a brief interlude in their discussions of viable projects, sources of financing, and technical assistance, the directors witnessed a presentation to Mr Demas in relation to an award for distinguished service to the Caribbean. The ambassador of Colombia to Barbados, Dr Carlos Ayerbe, presented to the CDB chief executive the diploma of the award of the Order of San Carlos. It is the highest honor which Colombia accords to non-nationals. The emerald-and-gold insignia of the order was pinned to Mr Dema's lapel last May by the President of Colombia, Dr Belisario Betancur, during the 13th annual meeting of the CDB's Board of Governors in Cartagena.

Of the matters coming before the directors at yesterday's meeting, three were grants from the bank's technical assistance fund. In one case, a consultant is being recruited to assist CDB in appraising a private sector fisheries project in Trinidad and Tobago for which financing is being sought from the bank.

In another case, a fisheries project underway in Antigua and Barbuda with bank financing is to be evaluated, also with the assistance of consultants expert in the field.

A third grant, out of funds provided by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), will promote the efforts towards the development of alternative sources of energy. A bio-digester pilot project is being established at an arrowroot factory in St Vincent and the Grenadines to produce gas from bittie, the residue from the processed arrowroot.

The project loans approved are for such sectors as agriculture, fisheries, housing, infrastructure, and tourism. Jamaica, which is the most populous of the CDB's borrowing member countries, is the principal beneficiary. Almost 16 million dollars (U.S.) of the funds approved will go to three projects there. The biggest of the three is a road improvement and maintenance program, which overall up to 1987 is estimated to cost 95 million dollars (U.S.) and for which the CDB's input is a nine-million-dollar loan.

The private sector Jamaica project, for which the CDB is lending the Carreras Development Company Limited 2.6 million dollars (1 Jca dollar; 32 cents U.S.) aims to establish coffee and plantain cultivation -- both for export -- on 203 hectares of land in the Cave Valley of St Ann Parish.

A six-million-dollar (U.S.) line of credit to the Agricultural Credit Bank of Jamaica will help with the rehabilitation and expansion of agricultural production in the country, particularly of export crops. The money is to be lent for sub-projects through financial institutions such as commercial banks, both to individuals and enterprises in productive activities.

Dominica will be receiving 1.3 million dollars (U.S.) in mortgage financing for assisting in the reconstruction of the housing stock, mainly for the poorer people, which suffered considerable damage during hurricanes in 1979 and 1980. A second loan approved for Dominica -- for 604,000 dollars (U.S.) with an inbuilt technical assistance grant -- will assist the island's fishery cooperative association to establish marketing facilities. The project is intended to increase consumption of fish through wider distribution in areas where demand for fish is not now being satisfied, and thereby encourage fishermen to redouble their efforts and increase their catch.

Through its 1.1-million-dollar (U.S.) loan to the Government of St Lucia, the CDB will be involved in a co-financing arrangement with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) of an agricultural development project to benefit small farmers. The main objectives of this project are to increase food production, provide storage and marketing facilities, and improve existing community services, including the provision of safe drinking water and sewage disposal.

Apart from its loan, which will finance the construction of two rural service centers and purchase inputs for two years, the CDB is giving a grant for the recruitment of a marketing specialist.

The Antigua and Barbuda loan will help to boost the tourism industry. It goes to a private company, Barrymore Properties Limited, for phase two of a project to establish modern holiday apartments and a swimming pool on a prime beachfront area of Runaway Bay, on the northwestern coast of Antigua.

TOURISM MINISTERS REQUEST EEC CONCESSIONS

FL100204 Bridgetown CANA in English 2243 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Bridgetown, Barbados, Dec 9 (CANA) -- Caribbean countries have suggested concessions to their recession-hit tourist industries be written into a trade and aid pact that developing states and the European Economic Community (EEC) are about to renegotiate, the deputy prime minister of St Vincent and the Grenadines, Hudson Tannis, said today. The recommendation was made when Caribbean tourism ministers met here December 5-8 to discuss how to check a slump in the vital money-spinning industry, according to Tannis.

"We took a decision to authorize (Barbados) Ambassador to Brussels Oliver Jackman to hold discussions with the European Economic Community and the ACP (African, Caribbean and Pacific) countries to see whether tourism cannot be placed on the same category basis as agriculture and mining," Tannis said. "Those commodities receive assistance, or the governments of the countries receive assistance, through a stabilization fund which is paid out when agriculture has been adversely affected, or mining, either by disaster of the impact of a recession, and its compensatory financing to relieve the pressure on governments by giving them a certain amount of money to replace what has been lost.

"We say if you can devise a formula for agriculture and mining, similarly, efforts should be made to see whether they cannot agree that some stabilisation fund formula should be established in relation to tourism to assist tourism in the areas when and where there is a natural disaster or where recession has impacted severely and negatively on the economy."

ACP and European states have begun negotiations on a successor agreement to the second Lome Trade and Aid Convention that gives preferential treatment to goods from the developing countries exported to Europe.

Tannis said one of the major decisions taken at the Barbados conference related to the establishment of an Eastern Caribbean Tourism Association (ECTA) desk in Europe, to promote visits to the Caribbean by Europeans.

BARBADOS

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES OCTOBER INFLATION RATE

FL132354 Bridgetown CANA in English 2253 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Dec 13 (CANA) -- The annualised inflation rate for Barbados in October was 5.8 per cent, the government said today. A statement said the retail price index for October stood at 140.3 points, an increase of 0.4 points or 0.3 per cent over September.

The index for fuel and light decreased by 1.4 per cent, medical and personal care by 0.2 per cent, and that for education, recreation, and the miscellaneous group decreased by 0.1 per cent.

The index for food increased by 0.2 per cent, that for alcoholic beverages and tobacco increased by 1.9 percent, household operations and supplies by 0.4 per cent, and clothing and footwear by 1.6 percent.

The marginal increase in the food index resulted from increases in the price of cornflakes, lamb, pork chops, sweet potatoes, carrots, beans, cabbage, and cucumbers. At the same time, decreases were recorded in the prices of yams, tomatoes, dried peas, corned beef, canned fish, and fruit juices. There were no changes in the price of butter, margarine, and other cooking oils, milk and milk preparations, cheese and eggs, sugar and sugar products, and animal and poultry feeds.

OPPOSITION PARTY ADVOCATES KEEPING DEFENSE FORCE

FL121547 Bridgetown CANA in English 1906 GMT 11 Dec 83

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Dec 11 (CANA) -- The opposition Democratic Labour Party (DLP) here today reaffirmed its commitment to maintenance of a small highly-trained defence force which would be "well schooled in its duties to civic power."

Deputy opposition leader Erskine Sandiford, writing in the SUNDAY ADVOCATE newspaper, said: "...We are advocating a small force that will not cut deeply into the national resources and will be well schooled in its duties to the civil power." He said the party had been accused by opponents of being opposed to Barbados having a defence force. But Sandiford noted that the DLP government "took steps towards the establishment of arrangements for the defence and security of Barbados."

Sandiford, who is shadow minister for defence, said his party was conscious that the power of armies could be misused. "We are fully conscious that the newly independent countries, particularly the small ones, are extremely fragile and open to dangers from direct assault, guerrilla activities, and from the coup d'etat."

The deputy opposition leader said the DLP has pledged to maintain a small, highly trained, and effective disciplined defence force for the following purposes: to repel external aggression and threats to Barbados' sovereignty and independence; to protect the democratic institutions of the state from any attempt to overthrow the legally constituted government by force of arms; to support the civil power in cases of any severe breakdown of law and order; and to provide a body of disciplined persons in case of need arising out of national disasters.

Sandiford said his party had outlined its position on the matter of the defence force in its 1981 general election manifest.

CAYMAN ISLANDS

LOCAL PAPERS PRINTED ABROAD TO PAY IMPORT DUTY

FL121613 Bridgetown CANA in English 2225 GMT 10 Dec 83

[By Elizabeth Ebanks]

[Text] Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands, Dec 10 (CANA) -- The Cayman Islands Government, responding to complaints from a locally produced newspaper, had slapped a 20 percent import duty on newspapers printed overseas "for local consumption." The move affects one publication, THE CAYMAN PILOT, which is sent "camera ready" to Miami, where it is printed and returned within 24 hours, but has no bearing on foreign newspapers sold here like the Jamaica GLEANER, and THE MIAMI HERALD.

Publisher and editor-in-chief of THE CAYMAN PILOT Desmond Seales responded to the new tax by saying he saw it as an attempt to muzzle the press. He linked the move to the visible part played by his publishing house in opposing a bill, since scrapped, that the government was planning to introduce to the legislature that would have removed qualified privilege in reporting public meetings. Qualified privilege gives publications statutory defences in opposing any action for defamation that may arise from published reports.

On the new tax bill, passed last week, Seales said, "I think it is a rifle shot aimed at a publication that dared to take an independent stand on issues, particularly legislation that the people of the island have complained to us that they cannot live with."

In introducing the bill in the Legislative Assembly Financial Secretary Thomas Jefferson said its aim was "merely to establish more of an equitable system of competition" among newspapers on the island. He said that it had come about as a result of a complaint from another newspaper of "unfair competition." The other newspapers, he added, "were under constant bother" in maintaining equipment and training staff to man the equipment, while the newspaper printed in Miami has its printing matter "simplified."

Under the present law, the Customs Law (revised) 1971, newsprint is exempt from duty, although various other materials used in the printing process are taxed.

The proposed amendment to the defamation act was withdrawn from the agenda of the Legislative Assembly 30 minutes before the start of a press freedom public meeting initiated by THE CAYMAN PILOT, and 2 days before the resumption of the Legislative Assembly's final session for 1983 on November 18. A government release stated that the defamation bill had been removed from the agenda pending "further consultation" with the Government of the United Kingdom, which rules the colony.

Seales said it was not feasible to have his newspaper printed on the island. "With our quality control, from the actual physical printing it may be," he said, adding "we take a different editorial line, particularly in reporting local news, and under Cayman's printing law, which makes the printers equally liable for the newspaper's content, competing publishing houses would have to ensure that their legal position was protected -- which creates obvious problems."

GRENADA

SCOON EXPLAINS POSITION, OUTSIDE HELP, POLICY

FL091703 Kingston THE SUNDAY GLEANER in English 4 Dec 83 p 9 A

[THE SUNDAY GLEANER subslug: "Sir Paul Scoon, Governor-General of Grenada, in an interview with the SUNDAY EXPRESS of Trinidad and Tobago"]

[Text] Question: Sir Paul, at what point did you form the view that you would have to seek assistance from outside?

Answer: On Sunday 23rd in the evening.

Question: What led you to decide that?

Answer: Because of the deteriorating situation...what I though to be deteriorating situation of the Military Council.

Question: Up to that point what had been your relationship with the Military Council?

Answer: My relationship was always very good. They came to me soon after they assumed power and told me what their plans were. They kept me in the picture as to what they were doing. As to whether or not I approved of the things they wanted to do is a different matter. I do not wish to comment on that.

Diplomatic Movement

Question: So that it was after the Prime Minister had been killed that you then took this position.

Answer: Oh, from the time that the Prime Minister was killed people were ringing me, writing me, and sending messages saying, Mr Governor General, you have to do something. We are depending on you. You are the only man left now. What are you doing about it? People were so shocked and people obviously did not relish the thought of having military people in control and from that time they were saying to me, 'please do something about it.' So the period between the 19th and the intervention by the Caribbean and U.S. forces was a very difficult period for me. Very, very difficult period for me.

Question: Whom did you contact to seek the assistance?

Answer: There was a lot of diplomatic movement between my house and several other people. That I do not wish to comment on but eventually we had to make a formal request to the OECS. [Organization of Eastern Caribbean States]

Contacting the Queen

Question: Was there some problem about the fact that you did not contact Her Majesty's Government? Being the Queen's representative in Grenada, do you regard your action in going to the OECS and the possibilities that arose from that to be in any way in conflict with your appointment?

Answer: They don't conflict at all. Her Majesty has many governments. You see, lots of people don't understand the constitutional position of Grenada. The Queen is the head of Grenada and the British Government can't dictate to the Government of Grenada what to do, nor can the British Government give any orders to the Governor General of Grenada. The Queen is the Queen of Grenada, as distinct from the Queen of Britain, as distinct from the Queen of Canada, or Australia, as the case may be. I think people missed that point all the time. I don't understand all this about the British Government. I had no thought at all of contacting the British Government on this matter. We had to act closely with the OECS. We are part of the OECS. And they were the ones mounting the initiative in the first case.

Question: Were you aware at the time that you contacted the OECS that this would probably mean that they would invite the Americans in?

Answer: Oh yes. I was aware of that.

Question: And you had no reservation about this?

Answer: No. Not really. I felt that all along that the OECS forces or even the whole Caribbean area, with all the forces put together, couldn't quell any sort of rebellion here because I knew, although I didn't know the exact amount, and was horrified that we had so much arms and ammunition in this country. I knew that we were well stocked with arms and ammunition.

Question: And how do you feel today in the light of events that have since taken place?

Answer: Well, I feel that this was the right thing. I know there has been lots of theoretical talk about the pros and cons of what has happened but I think Grenadian people wanted it, and since they wanted it, I think that perhaps the right thing was done.

No Quarrel with Trinidad

Question: Do you have any doubt that the people of Grenada did in fact want such intervention?

Answer: I have absolutely no doubt in my mind that the people of Grenada wanted this. This they felt was the only way.

Question: Did you feel let down by Trinidad and Tobago's position?

Answer: Oh no. I have no quarrel with Trinidad and Tobago at all. As I said before, a government has a right to take whatever action it wants to take and because Trinidad and Tobago did not support the business of intervention, it does not mean that Trinidad and Tobago can't be friendly with Grenada. In fact I hope that we are great friends. I look forward to strengthening the bonds of unity which are very natural and very close, and I am confident that in due course the Trinidadian and Tobago Government will want to help Grenada as they have always done.

Question: You have today announced the appointment of an interim commission which you hope to be headed by Allister McIntyre. This I take it is subject to confirmation from his employers. Do you feel reasonably confident that that would be forthcoming?

Answer: Well, I sincerely hope so.

Interim Government

Question: How do you envisage the Interim Government performing in relation to your own office?

Answer: They would act in the way that Ministers who have acted under the electoral system. And they would advise me just as a Cabinet would advise. Except that perhaps during the interim period I would be more involved. Under the electoral system the Government advises the Governor General and he virtually has to do what the Government says. But I think in my case it will be necessary sometimes to do more things in my own deliberate judgment.

Question: You will in fact be responsible for the day-to-day operation on their advice as distinct from their being responsible. Is that correct?

Answer: I think one can look at it that way. Yes. But it doesn't mean, of course, that they don't have leeway. They can do the running of the Ministries just like any Minister would do in the system such as you know. And they would direct policy. They would take certain decisions. But there will be many more matters that they will have to discuss with me before final action is taken.

Question: Will these be spelt out in clearly defined terms of reference so that they will know the terms of reference of their authority?

Answer: No, no, no, I don't intend to do that at all. In fact I am very conscious of the fact that I am the Queen's representative and so my job is more or less just a ceremonial one. My, I don't act that way. I don't want to act as a politician at all. I think the people who have been invited to form the Government are people I can understand. We all talk the same kind of language. I don't foresee any conflict at all and they would be quite free to act if they were Ministers.

Total Menace

Question: Sir Paul, how much longer do you think the Americans are likely to remain in Grenada?

Answer: Well, I can't say for sure but if things continue as they are going, we hope to get out all the Cubans, for they are a menace. I must say there are some other people from the Caribbean region who were a total menace to the peace and security of our country.

Question: You mean during these recent disturbances?

Answer: From Guyana. I mean this is widely known. This is no secret. So this is the kind of thing we have to contend with. So there are still these people. We have to look at them very carefully. But as you will see for yourself, peace and order has been restored very rapidly and the Grenadian people are anxious to get on with their way of life and I think within a very short time, within days or even next week or the week after, we are constantly reviewing the situation, I have a briefing every morning, and then I would say that the Americans will not remain here a day longer than is necessary.

Question: Would you like to see Trinidad and Tobago involved in the Peace Keeping Force which will obviously have to replace the Americans when they leave?

Answer: Well, on the Peace Keeping Force issue, I would definitely have to take counsel. This has to be a collective thing. I'll have to consult the OECS on that. For this is a joint endeavour.

Elections

Question: When are you hoping to have elections in Grenada?

Answer: Elections must definitely be held within the coming year.

Question: 1984?

Answer: 1984. Yes. Some people are of the view that 6 months is too short a period but I want to do this as rapidly as possible, for I don't want to be in a position of where we are carrying on an interim Government very long. Once the stage is set then we are going to supervise an election which we hope to do very quickly. We then appoint a Boundaries Commission and have the registration which we haven't had for years. The party activity will begin, then I think we should have elections. I wouldn't hazard a guess. I have within my breast the kind of month that is a possibility but I wouldn't like to say yet for certain whether this month or that month.

Question: In the final analysis it will be up to you to call that on the advice of the...

Answer: ...yes.

Question: Did you feel yourself in danger at any stage during the recent past?

Answer: Well of course. Yes. I was in this house and had to be moved out at the earliest possible time. But in my position you know I am a great believer in God. I pray a lot. And I am not really afraid of danger.

Thank you very much, Sir Paul.

CORRECTION TO ITEM ON OVERSEAS STUDENTS

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Scoon Addresses Nation on Security, Other Topics" and subheaded "Overseas Students," published in the 12 December Latin America DAILY REPORT, last paragraph on page S 3, lines 1-2:

...a total of 184 pursuing studies in Cuba,... (correcting number)

JAMAICA

GRENADA SEEN AS ANCHOR FOR SOVIET EXPANSION

FL131349 Kingston THE SUNDAY GLEANER in English 4 Dec 83 pp 11 A, 15 A

[From the "Window on the World" column "Grenadian Invasion and Soviet Expansion" by Vincent Tulloch]

[Text] The dust on the United States-led invasion of Grenada has more or less settled, at least on the surface, and for the time being analysts will spend sometime trying to find out what exactly went on in that country and how involved were external powers.

In the case of the Soviet Union, the Kremlin will try to see what went wrong in their master plan, though it is unlikely that many tears will be shed for whatever went wrong. My opinion is that the Soviet leaders will argue that if they had succeeded in their plan, that would have been a feather in their cap but since they have failed, not much had been lost. So it's business as usual.

In the West there will be two schools counting their cost. The Cubans must certainly be very concerned over the fact that they have been used in an experiment in which they are now left carrying the blame with years of carefully cultivated friendship in the English-speaking Caribbean shattered.

The United States for its part must be painstakingly assessing their finds and realising that they barely made it on time to stop what was obviously a serious attempt by the Russians to strike a blow at the heart of western defense through a country which at a mere glance would be dismissed as insignificant in the global power struggle.

Let us look at some of the factors involved and see how the Russian attempt to beat the West on its own turf nearly succeeded. Take a look at the areas of communist inspired infiltration in the region. At the extreme south of the Caribbean Basin is Grenada, move northerly just a few miles off the United States mainland and the Soviet satellite Cuba sits comfortably there. Then move to the Central American region and there sits Nicaragua just a few miles from the strategically important Panama Canal. And if you continue in the direction to Grenada to complete the triangle you will find Suriname some miles to the south.

What's the Connection?

So you probably say, so what is the connection of this triangle? A lot, if one cares to look for it.

Let us flash our mind back to the Geneva talks on the reduction of intermediate range nuclear weapons which the Soviets walked out of with the arrival of some Pershing Missiles in Britain and components for cruise missiles in Italy. The Soviet Union has over the years threatened to bring intermediate range nuclear weapons within reach of the United States mainland if the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) went ahead with its plan to base them in Europe.

This is where the recent tragedy in Grenada fits in. The Soviet Union, like any other major power, but even more so because of its system of government, decided that time was apparently running out in terms of its global plan and the role Grenada had to play.

There is no doubt that Grenada was destined to play a significant role in the global strategy of the Soviet Union. The finds of the American-led invasion forces attest to that. The airport at Point Salines which was being built by the Cubans was budgeted for U.S. $75 million. Of that amount the European Community and other international funding agencies would provide about U.S. $15 million at the most. The remainder would be Cuba's responsibility. Cuba does not have that type of money when she is subsidised by several million dollars a day by the Soviet Union. So the funding would have come from the Soviet Union via Cuba.

Desperately Needed

It remains a fact that the airport is desperately needed by the Grenadians for tourism, etc, and Prime Minister Bishop probably thought that it remained specifically for that. But when it became clear that it would be needed for other purposes the Soviet Union demanded that Bishop be put aside to speed up events. The airport fits exactly into the standard requirement of all Warsaw Pact military airports according to knowledgeable military sources.

It is also known that the Soviet Union had intentions to build a naval base in Grenada and with the satellite tracking station which was to be erected everything would be in place for submarine-based intermediate range missiles to be off the United States.

The global programme would fit in since under the agreement with the United States following the nuclear confrontation with Cuba in the sixties, that state has been ruled out as a base for nuclear weapons.

The Soviet triangle in place would thus ensure that a presence in Grenada would in the time of war effectively cut off U.S. oil supplies from Venezuela and restrict severely the movement of supply for reinforcements to western Europe through the Panama Canal.

It is estimated that a conventional war in Europe could be fought for about a month by the Europeans but that reinforcements would be needed after that. Most supplies would pass through the Panama Canal from the U.S. west coast. A Soviet presence in Nicaragua would certainly interrupt such supply.

So the invasion of Grenada, though controversial, may have come in the nick of time to stop a bold challenge to western democracy by the Soviet Union.

BRIEFS

COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH FRG -- A technical and financial cooperation agreement between Jamaica and the Federal Republic of Germany for J$34.8 million (30 million deutsch mark), was signed yesterday between Prime Minister Edward Seaga and German Ambassador Richard Wagner at Jamaica House. The German Government has also offered up to nine scholarships in vocational training for Jamaicans for 1984. The J$34.8 million will be available for 1983 and 1984 with an interest rate of 4.5 percent over 20 years with a five-year grace period. Projects to be developed under the agreement are rural development, energy from new and renewable sources, environmental protection, and training. [Excerpt] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 3 Dec 83 p 1 FL]

SAUDI ARABIAN, IDB LOANS -- Kingston, Jamaica, 13 Dec (CANA) -- Jamaica is to receive two loans totalling J$180 million from Saudi Arabia and the IDB. The Saudi Development Fund is granting J$60.3 million for an irrigation system in the south-central Parish of Clarendon and for road improvement. The IDB is granting U.S. $40 million for a private industry rehabilitation project. [Summary] [Bridgetown CANA in English 1749 GMT 13 Dec 83 FL]

ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

GOVERNMENT WILL NOT MAKE DISCLOSURE TO IRS

FL092052 Bridgetown CANA in English 2004 GMT 9 Dec 83

[By Trevor Yearwood]

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Dec 9 (CANA) -- St Vincent and the Grenadines today said it had done a lot to clean up its image as an international offshore banking centre and was not prepared to give the United States Internal Revenue Service (IRS) confidential information on the financial operation.

St Vincent and the Grenadines Deputy Prime Minister Hudson Tannis, who told reporters here Washington was insisting on the IRS being given access to top secret information on offshore banking operations before designating Caribbean countries as beneficiaries of American convention business, said: "We are not going to make disclosure on accounts that come within the area of confidentiality and on the people who do business with us in St Vincent and the Grenadines."

Tannis, who arrived in Barbados to accept a document designating St Vincent and the Grenadines a beneficiary of President Reagan's multi-million-dollar trade aid and investment package called the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI), said that because his country's tourist plant was small it would not benefit significantly if President Reagan offered tax concessions to American businessmen holding conventions there. But, he added: "We have generally taken a position that if those provisions were to apply to us that we would not make a disclosure."

Tannis' statement came against the background of claims by senior U.S. Government officials that Americans use offshore banks to launder dollars illegally gained. Tannis said: "We have tightened up on the legislation that operated formerly...for example, people must now make a deposit of at least 250,000 E.C. (East Caribbean) dollars before they can begin offshore banking." In addition they had to have a staffed office in St Vincent and the Grendines. "We are no longer going to allow people just to stick up a nameplate on a door, as obtained previously," Tannis remarked. "We feel this will have the effect of weeding out undesirables." Some people had complied with the regulations, Tannis said, while "some companies have opted to go out."

Tannis, Dominica's Prime Minister Eugenia Charles, St Lucia's Deputy Prime Minister George Mallet, and St Kitts and Nevis' Attorney General Tapley Seaton today received documents designating their countries CBI beneficiaries. Under the CBI, Washington is offering Caribbean and Central American countries more than 300 million dollars (U.S.) in cash aid as well as duty-free access to the U.S. market for most of their exports.

Tannis said St Vincent and the Grenadines welcomed the CBI. The country, however, was concerned about preconditions relating to benefitting from the American convention business, he added. The business is seen by Caribbean leaders as a possible boost to tourism arrivals in the face of recession to tourist-supplying countries.

"They say if people, Americans, come to our country they would make provisions for them to hold conventions," Tannis said. "They prevented it at one stage. They have lifted that restriction, so they can come to the Caribbean to hold conventions. But there are certain preconditions. The Internal Revenue Service will want disclosures of accounts being held by Americans in offshore banking institutions, and a lot of territories, including St Vincent, will not accept."

Tannis admitted that the number of long-stay holiday-makers going to St Vincent and the Grenadines was falling, while figures showed brief stays were up. "There has been a significent decline in overnight-staying visitors, but a very substantial increase in cruise visitors," he said. "I would say that we have reached the high peak of about 50,000 overnight-staying visitors up to 1980 and we are down now with a six per cent reduction for the half year this year to about 36,000 overnight-staying visitors."

BOLIVIA

PRESIDENT PLEASED WITH NEW ARGENTINE REGIME

PY131145 Paris AFP in Spanish 0144 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Excerpt] La Paz, 12 Dec (AFP) -- Bolivian President Hernan Siles Zuazo here today termed as exemplary the speech made by new Argentine President Raul Alfonsin on the day of his inauguration. Siles Zuazo revealed his pleasure over the reestablishment of the Argentine constitutional regime, pointing out that he had attended a splendid democratic party in Buenos Aires.

The Bolivian president arrived from Buenos Aires at 2232 GMT today and was met by Vice President Jaime Paz Zamora. During a brief statement to the media, Siles pointed out that he was very happy at the signs of support for Bolivia he received on various occasions during the national delegation's stay in Argentina for the presidential inauguration ceremony.

On Friday, after confronting a 48-hour national strike decreed by the Bolivian Labor Federation demanding better salaries, Siles will leave for Colombia, where he will meet with the other presidents of the Andean Pact member-countries.

COB BEGINS 2-DAY STRIKE FOR BETTER WAGES

PY131929 Paris AFP in Spanish 1536 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Excerpt] La Paz, 13 Dec (AFP) -- A 2-day stoppage decreed by the Bolivan Labor Confederation [COB] began today with a total paralyzation of industrial and public activity, the silencing of radios, except for union and military stations, and partial transport service. The COB decided to begin the strike because of government reluctance to grant a minimum survival wage with an escalator clause, arguing that the increase would only serve to accelerate the inflationary process and that the workers would not receive any concrete benefit.

Sources close to the government have stated that not all sectors complied with the strike, adding that the circulation of several taxis and buses of the public transport sector, the publication of La Paz newspaper PRESENCIA (whose union has disagreed with the strike) and EL DIARIO, and other papers in the interior support this impression.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

'NEW PROBLEMS' IN TRADE WITH HAITI NOTED

PA102025 Paris AFP in Spanish 1543 GMT 10 Dec 83

[Text] Santo Domingo, 10 Dec (AFP) -- New problems have emerged in relations between the Dominican Republic and Haiti in the wake of the Haitian Government's decision to "suspend" border trade between the two countries, President Salvador Jorge Blanco confirmed here today. The president announced that his government has decided not to send representatives to the bilateral mixed commission meeting that was scheduled to be held this week in the Haitian capital, "pending" life-time President Jean Claude Duvalier's reversal of that unilateral decision.

According tc Jorge Blanco, Haiti's official explanation of the cessation of trade via the common border was that it was due to "projects being carried out in the northern and southern border regions." Two days ago, however, Moliere Duplan, Haitian ambassador to Santo Domingo, told newsmen that the measure had been prompted by protests of Haitian industrialists and merchants, who feel that they suffer from what they termed the "contrabanding" of Dominican products across the common 300-km border.

According to official Dominican estimates, the sales of national products to Haiti across the border amount to $15 million per year. The Dominican products most sought by the Haitian merchants include sugar, rice, plastic products, and industrialized foodstuffs.

The Haitian Government's measure, implemented on 1 December, has resulted in a new postponement of the bilateral mixed commission meeting. The commission was created in 1979 by an agreement between Duvalier and then Dominican President Antonio Guzman Fernandez. In the 4 years that have since elapsed, hardly any progress has been made toward the fundamental objective, which is to establish an overall trade agrreement that can bolster the economic relations between the two countries that share the Hispaniola island, observers in Santo Domingo noted.

URUGUAY

1,500 DEMONSTRATE, PROTEST BAN ON EL DIA

PY131255 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0309 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Text] Montevideo, 12 Dec (EFE) -- Approximately 1,500 persons staged a spontaneous demonstration tonight against the Uruguayan military regime outside the building of the newspaper EL DIA, which was closed by the government last Sunday. During the demonstration, police officers of the intelligence services identified and attempted to question Julio Toyos, chief of EL DIA's sports section.

Shouting "The military dictatorship will end," nearly 400 employees of EL DIA gathered on 18 de Julio Avenue. The number of demonstrators increased later as bystanders joined the demonstrations.

The demonstrators were then surrounded by personnel of the police secret services, and journalist Toyos was identified by two officers, who attempted to take his identification card from him. As Toyos resisted, the officers told him he was committing "an act in contempt of a police officer." An attorney linked to EL DIA and other journalists prevented Toyos' arrest. The policemen told Toyos he was "to report to police headquarters," and he told them that they could find him at the EL DIA building where he works. Last night, Toyos was at Radio Montecarlo, where he also works as a journalist, expecting to be summoned by the police.

The antigovernment demonstration to protest the closure of EL DIA for three editions ended without further incident.